

# Wisconsin Family Health Survey 1998

Bureau of Health Information  
Division of Health Care Financing  
Department of Health and Family Services

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November 1999

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## Introduction

**B***ackground.* The Wisconsin Family Health Survey (FHS) was started in 1989 to collect information about health status, health problems, health insurance coverage, and use of health care services among Wisconsin residents. This survey is conducted on a continuous basis, collecting information every month. A random sample of households is telephoned by trained interviewers, who speak with the household member most knowledgeable about the health of all household members. This respondent provides information for all people living in the household at the time of the interview. Persons living in nursing homes, dormitories and other institutional settings are not included in the survey.

*Survey topics.* To monitor health status and health care utilization issues, survey questions ask about the current health status, chronic conditions, and physical limitations of all household members. Data are obtained about the last visit to a doctor, to a dentist, and emergency room in the past year. Background characteristics, such as age, race, poverty status, and education, also are obtained for all persons in the household. The survey also provides information about health insurance coverage in Wisconsin.

*Survey design.* The survey results presented in this report are representative of Wisconsin household residents, who constitute approximately 97 percent of all persons residing in the state. (Non-household residents, including persons living in nursing homes, dormitories, prisons, and other institutions, constitute the remaining 3 percent who are not represented by this survey.) In 1998, the FHS interviewed respondents in 2,463 households; these households included 6,560 persons. Further information about the survey design is found in the Technical Notes.

*Interpretive results.* The tables in this report present estimated percentages of Wisconsin residents based on survey responses. These estimates should not be treated as precise results because they are derived from a sample. A 95 percent confidence interval ( $\pm$ ) is printed in a column next to each percentage estimate; this means that 95 percent of similar surveys would obtain an estimate within the confidence interval specified. Tables also include estimated numbers of the Wisconsin household population, based on the weighted sample. Both the confidence intervals and the weighting procedures are described in the Technical Notes, as are variables used in this report, such as poverty status and metropolitan areas.

*Contributors to this report.* This report was written by Pamela Imm, Survey Coordinator, in the Bureau of Health Information; she also produced all of the data for tables and graphics and calculated the confidence intervals. Eleanor Cautley and Patricia Nametz edited the report. The project was supervised by Patricia Guhleman, Chief, Population Health Unit. Barbara Rudolph, Director, and Sandra Breitborde, Deputy Director, Bureau of Health Information, provided overall direction. Survey sampling and interviewing were conducted by the Wisconsin Survey Research Laboratory, University of Wisconsin-Extension.

This report was made possible by the cooperation of more than 2,400 survey respondents. We thank them for their contribution to making this information available.

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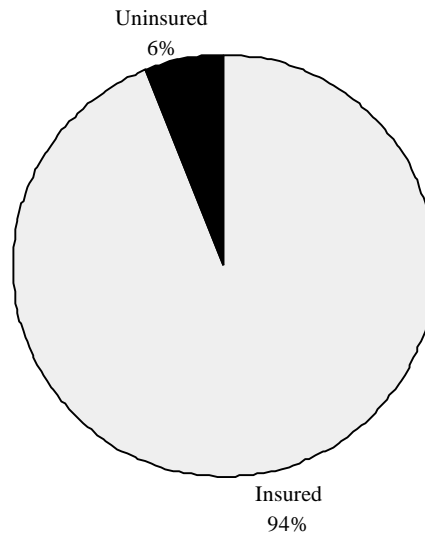
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## Current Health Insurance Coverage

The majority of Wisconsin household residents have health insurance (counting both private and public coverage). In 1998, an estimated 4,765,000 Wisconsin household residents (94%) had health insurance and 283,000 (6%) did not. This estimate is a “snapshot” of Wisconsin at one point in time (Figure 1).

The highest rate of insured is among older adults (age 65 and older), among whom nearly 100 percent are insured. Adults 18-44 are less likely to have insurance compared with other age groups. People in minority groups, people with less than a high school education, and people in poverty are most likely to be uninsured (see Table 2, page 8).

**Figure 1. Current Health Insurance Coverage, 1998**



Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

These data were obtained by asking respondents several questions about their current health insurance coverage. Separate questions were asked about Medicare, Medical Assistance (Medicaid), private health insurance and other kinds of health care coverage for each household member. Those without any current health care coverage were considered uninsured at the time of the interview. (See Table 1 for specific types of health insurance coverage.)

The 1998 estimate of currently uninsured (6%) is significantly lower than the estimate of currently uninsured based on 1997 FHS data (9%); conversely, the percentage of privately insured has increased (77% in 1998 vs. 73% in 1997). (See Table 1 for 1998 results.) Some of this difference is due to changes made to the survey interview questions in January 1998, intended to improve the accuracy of insurance estimates. This lower estimated percentage of uninsured is reflected in all subgroups. For more information, please refer to the Technical Notes under the subheading “insured and uninsured” (page 47).

Type of health insurance varies greatly by age. The majority of persons under age 65 have private insurance (Table 1). The majority of persons 65 and older have a combination of Medicare and private insurance (77%).

**Table 1. Health Insurance Coverage by Type, Wisconsin 1998**

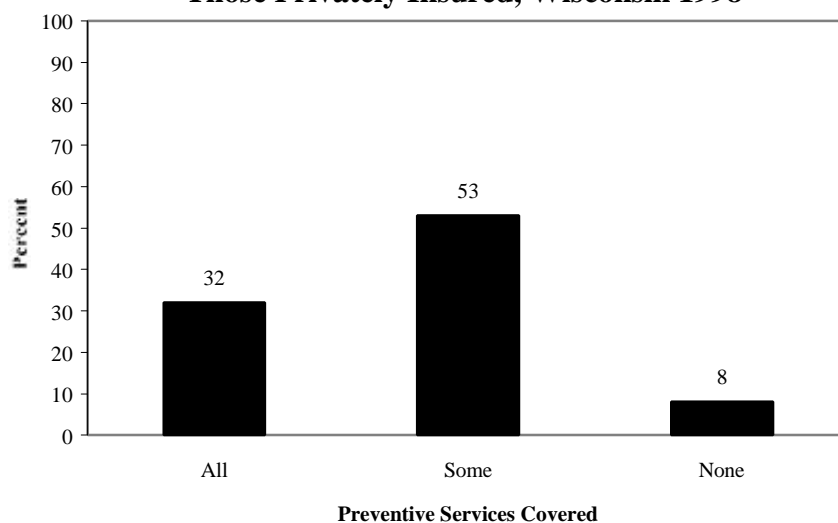
Age Group	Type of Health Insurance											
	Private Health Insurance		Medical Assistance		Medicare		Medicare And Private		Other Combination		No Health Insurance	
	Percent	(C.I.±)	Percent	(C.I.±)	Percent	(C.I.±)	Percent	(C.I.±)	Percent	(C.I.±)	Percent	(C.I.±)
0-17	85%	(2%)	8%	(1%)	0%	(0%)	0%	(0%)	2%	(1%)	4%	(1%)
18-44	88	(1)	2	(1)	--	(--)	--	(--)	1	(--)	8	(1)
45-64	90	(2)	3	(1)	--	(--)	1	(1)	--	(--)	5	(1)
65+	4	(1)	--	(--)	12	(2)	77	(3)	5	(2)	1	(1)
Total	77	(1)	4	(--)	2	(--)	10	(1)	2	(--)	6	(1)

Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Notes: C.I. = Confidence Interval (specifies a range within which the true value probably lies). See Technical Notes.  
A dash (--) indicates less than 0.5%.

For 8 percent of persons with private health insurance, the costs of general checkups and other preventive services were not covered (Figure 2). This can be considered a measure of underinsured persons. These data were obtained by asking privately insured respondents: “Does this health insurance plan pay for all, some, or none of the costs of general checkups and other preventive services when those who are covered are not sick?”

**Figure 2. Coverage of Preventive Care Among Those Privately Insured, Wisconsin 1998**



Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

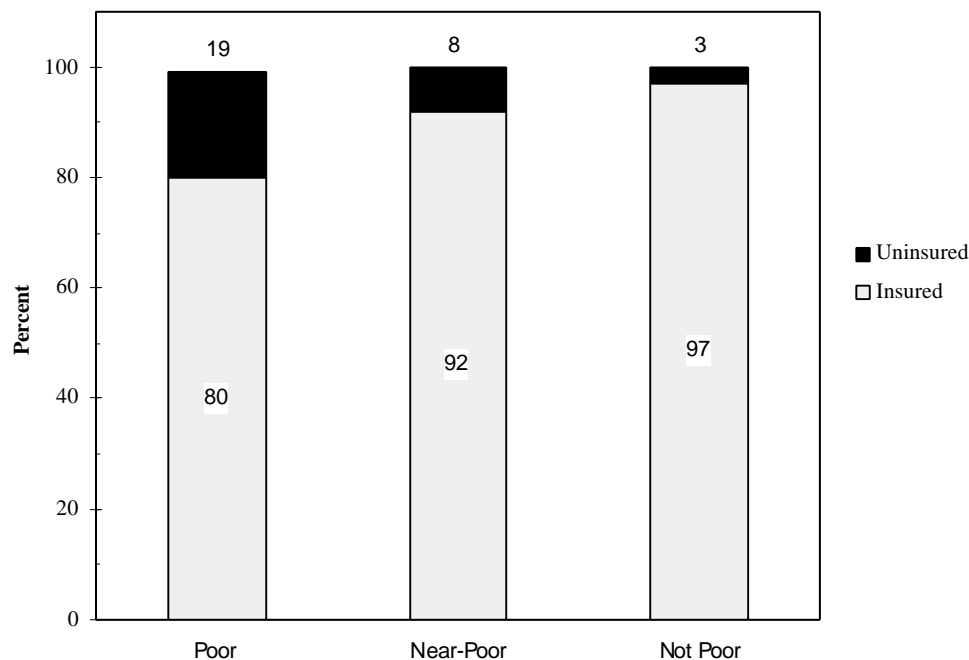
Note: Another 4% of those with private insurance did not know how much of their preventive care was covered by their insurance and 3% refused to answer.

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The estimated proportion uninsured was highest among the poor (19%) compared with near-poor and non-poor residents (8% and 3% percent) (Figure 3).

Poverty status is determined based on household size at the time of the survey and household income in the calendar year preceding the survey. A household of four people was considered poor (below the federal poverty guideline) in the 1998 survey if total income was below \$16,000 (see Technical Notes). The "near-poor" category includes all people in households where the income was greater than the poverty guideline but less than twice the guideline. For a household of four, this was \$32,000. All others (in households with income twice the poverty guideline or higher) were considered not poor.

**Figure 3. Insured and Uninsured by Poverty Status, Wisconsin, 1998**



Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Even though the total population of poor and non-poor residents was very different (485,000 and 3,472,000 respectively; see Table 15, page 41), the estimated number uninsured in each group was similar: 91,000 poor residents and 100,000 non-poor residents were uninsured (see Table 2, next page).

**Table 2. Current Health Insurance, Wisconsin 1998**

	Insured		Uninsured			
	Percent	(C.I.±)	Percent	(C.I.±)	Number	(C.I.±)
<b>Total</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>(1%)</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>(1%)</b>	<b>283,000</b>	<b>(28,000)</b>
<b>Age Groups</b>						
0-17	96	(1)	4	(1)	57,000	(12,000)
18-44	91	(1)	8	(1)	160,000	(21,000)
45-64	94	(1)	5	(1)	58,000	(13,000)
65+	98	(1)	1	(1)	8,000	(5,000)
<b>Summary Age Groups</b>						
18+	93	(1)	6	(1)	226,000	(26,000)
18-64	92	(1)	7	(1)	218,000	(25,000)
<b>Sex and Age Groups</b>						
<b>Male (Ages 18+)</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>114,000</b>	<b>(18,000)</b>
18-44	90	(2)	9	(2)	89,000	(16,000)
45-64	95	(2)	4	(2)	23,000	(8,000)
65+	99	(1)	1	(1)	2,000	(3,000)
<b>Female (Ages 18+)</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>112,000</b>	<b>(18,000)</b>
18-44	92	(1)	7	(1)	71,000	(14,000)
45-64	93	(2)	6	(2)	35,000	(10,000)
65+	98	(1)	2	(1)	6,000	(5,000)
<b>Race/Ethnicity and Age Groups</b>						
<b>All Ages</b>						
White, non-Hispanic	95	(1)	5	(1)	210,000	(25,000)
Black, non-Hispanic	81	(3)	18	(3)	38,000	(6,000)
Hispanic	87	(5)	11	(5)	20,000	(9,000)
<b>Ages 0-17</b>						
White, non-Hispanic	96	(1)	4	(1)	39,000	(10,000)
Black, non-Hispanic	86	(4)	14	(4)	12,000	(3,000)
<b>Ages 18-64</b>						
White, non-Hispanic	93	(1)	6	(1)	165,000	(22,000)
Black, non-Hispanic	77	(5)	21	(4)	24,000	(5,000)
<b>Residence</b>						
City of Milwaukee	90	(2)	9	(2)	58,000	(10,000)
Other Metropolitan (excluding City of Milwaukee)	95	(1)	4	(1)	120,000	(19,000)
Nonmetropolitan	93	(1)	6	(1)	105,000	(18,000)
<b>Poverty Status</b>						
Poor	80	(3)	19	(3)	91,000	(14,000)
Near-poor	92	(2)	8	(1)	73,000	(14,000)
Not poor	97	(1)	3	(1)	100,000	(17,000)
<b>Educational Attainment (Ages 18+)</b>						
Less than high school diploma	86	(3)	13	(3)	47,000	(11,000)
High school graduate	93	(1)	6	(1)	81,000	(15,000)
Education beyond high school	95	(1)	4	(1)	89,000	(16,000)
<b>Employment</b>						
<b>Ages 0-17</b>						
Live with employed adult(s)	96	(1)	4	(1)	51,000	(12,000)
Live with no employed adult(s)	88	(6)	12	(6)	6,000	(3,000)
<b>Ages 18-64</b>						
Employed full-time	94	(1)	5	(1)	112,000	(18,000)
Employed part-time	91	(2)	8	(2)	31,000	(9,000)

Notes: C.I. = Confidence Interval (specifies a range within which the true value probably lies.) See Technical Notes.

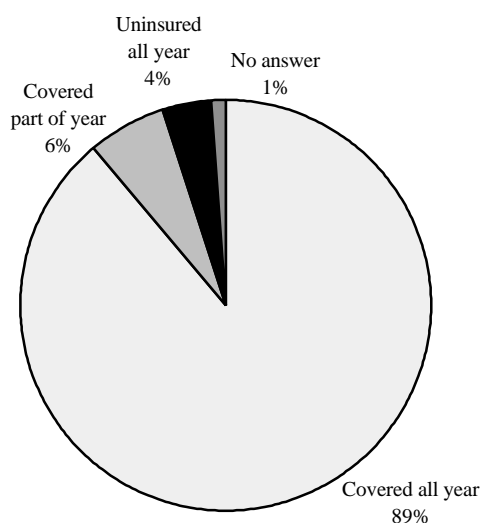
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## Health Insurance Coverage Over Past Year

The majority of Wisconsin residents had health insurance for the entire last year. That is, they were continuously covered during the 12 months prior to the survey interview. An estimated 4.5 million residents (89%) were insured for all of the past 12 months.

An estimated 208,000 Wisconsin household residents (4%) had no health insurance of any kind during the past 12 months. Another 322,000 residents (6%) had health insurance for part of the year and were uninsured for part of the year. Together, an estimated total of 529,000 residents (10%) were uninsured during part or all of the past year (Figure 4). Those less likely to be insured for the entire year were adults aged 18-44, the poor, those in minority groups, those with less than a high school diploma, and children living with no employed adult (see Table 3, page 12).

**Figure 4. Health Insurance Coverage Over Past Year, Wisconsin 1998**



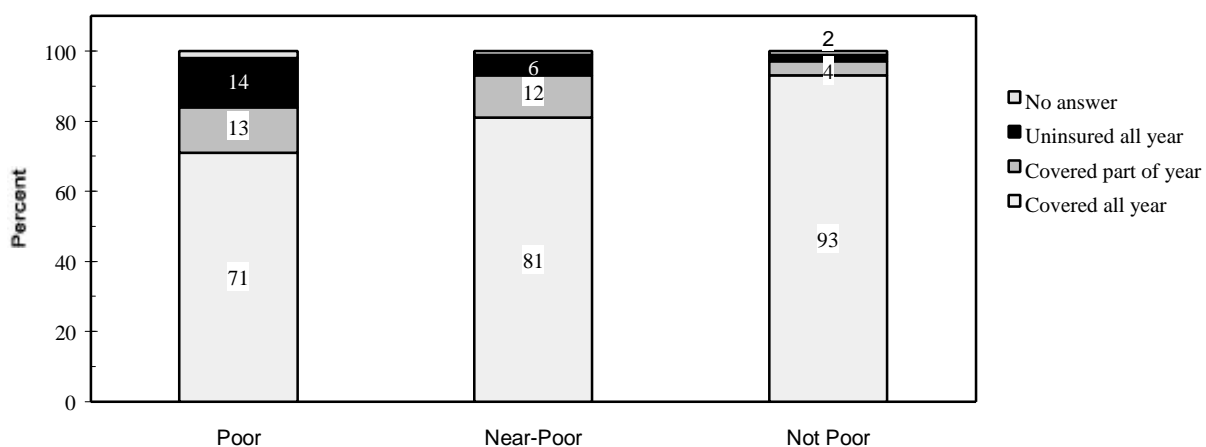
Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

These estimates were obtained by asking survey respondents about their health insurance coverage for the 12 months prior to the interview in 1998. Respondents were asked: “*Thinking about all kinds of private and government health insurance, including Medicare, Medical Assistance, employer provided coverage, and insurance that you pay for, were you covered for all 12 months since (date one year ago), or covered for part of that time, or not covered at all by health insurance since (date one year ago)?*” (This question was asked for all household members).

**Comparisons with national data.** In the past, the FHS estimate of household residents who were uninsured for the entire year has been smaller than the estimate of persons uninsured for an entire calendar year produced by the U.S. Census Bureau’s Current Population Survey. The differences between these two estimates are due primarily to differing survey methods (see Technical Notes, pp. 46-47). Current Population Survey results are useful in comparing Wisconsin to other states, while the FHS estimate is preferable for descriptions of Wisconsin’s population.

The poor and near-poor are disproportionately uninsured. In 1998, 27 percent of the poor and 18 percent of the near-poor were uninsured during part or all of the past year. In comparison, only 6 percent of non-poor residents had been uninsured during the year (Figure 5). Overall, 10 percent of all Wisconsin residents were uninsured during part or all of the past year (see Table 3, page 12).

**Figure 5. Health Insurance Coverage Over Past Year  
by Poverty Status, Wisconsin 1998**

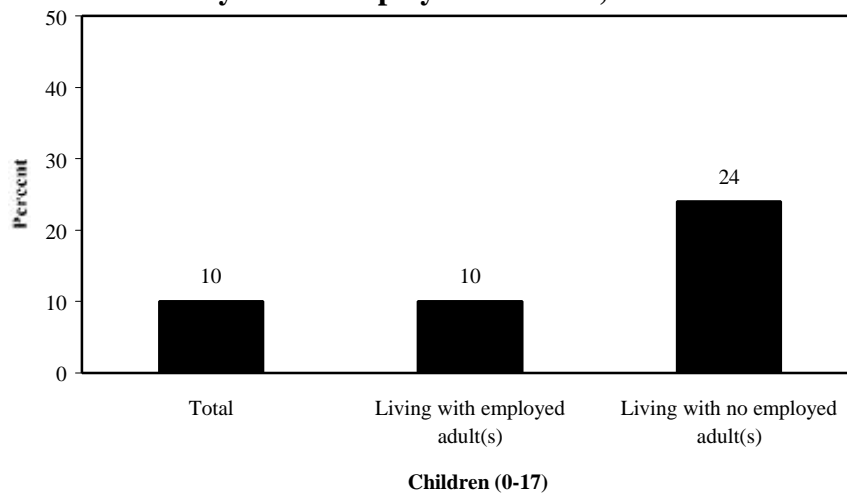


Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

About 51,000 Wisconsin children (4% of the 1,354,000 children in the state) lived in households with no employed adults in 1998. Twenty-four percent of these children (12,000) had no health insurance during part or all of the past year (Figure 6). This contrasts with children living in households where one or more adults were employed; 10 percent of these children (127,000) were without insurance during part or all of the past year.

Despite the higher proportion uninsured among children living with unemployed adults, the vast majority of uninsured children in Wisconsin live in a household with an employed adult (see Table 3, next page).

**Figure 6. Children Uninsured for Part or All of Past Year by Adult Employment Status, Wisconsin 1998**



Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

# Health Insurance Coverage Over Past Year

**Table 3. Health Insurance Coverage Over Past Year, Wisconsin 1998**

	Insured All Year		Insured Part of Year			
	Percent	(C.I.±)	Percent		Number	(C.I.±)
<b>Total</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>(1%)</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>(1%)</b>	<b>322,000</b>	<b>(30,000)</b>
<b>Age Groups</b>						
0-17	89	(1)	7	(1)	98,000	(16,000)
18-44	83	(1)	9	(1)	190,000	(23,000)
45-64	93	(1)	2	(1)	25,000	(9,000)
65+	96	(1)	1	(1)	8,000	(5,000)
<b>Summary Age Groups</b>						
18+	88	(1)	6	(1)	223,000	(25,000)
18-64	87	(1)	7	(1)	215,000	(25,000)
<b>Sex and Age Groups</b>						
<b>Male (Ages 18+)</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>108,000</b>	<b>(18,000)</b>
18-44	83	(2)	9	(2)	91,000	(16,000)
45-64	93	(2)	3	(1)	15,000	(7,000)
65+	97	(2)	1	(1)	2,000	(3,000)
<b>Female (Ages 18+)</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>116,000</b>	<b>(18,000)</b>
18-44	84	(2)	10	(2)	99,000	(16,000)
45-64	93	(2)	2	(1)	10,000	(6,000)
65+	95	(2)	2	(1)	6,000	(5,000)
<b>Race/Ethnicity and Age Groups</b>						
<b>All Ages</b>						
White, non-Hispanic	90	(1)	6	(1)	260,000	(28,000)
Black, non-Hispanic	69	(4)	16	(3)	33,000	(6,000)
Hispanic	83	(6)	8	(4)	14,000	(7,000)
<b>Ages 0-17</b>						
White, non-Hispanic	90	(2)	7	(1)	75,000	(14,000)
Black, non-Hispanic	70	(5)	20	(5)	17,000	(4,000)
<b>Ages 18-64</b>						
White, non-Hispanic	88	(1)	6	(1)	178,000	(23,000)
Black, non-Hispanic	69	(5)	14	(4)	16,000	(4,000)
<b>Residence</b>						
City of Milwaukee	85	(2)	7	(1)	46,000	(9,000)
Other Metropolitan (excluding City of Milwaukee)	90	(1)	6	(1)	173,000	(23,000)
Nonmetropolitan	88	(1)	6	(1)	102,000	(17,000)
<b>Poverty Status</b>						
Poor	71	(3)	13	(2)	61,000	(12,000)
Near-poor	81	(2)	12	(2)	115,000	(17,000)
Not poor	93	(1)	4	(1)	140,000	(20,000)
<b>Educational Attainment (Ages 18+)</b>						
Less than high school diploma	80	(3)	8	(2)	28,000	(9,000)
High school graduate	88	(2)	6	(1)	81,000	(15,000)
Education beyond high school	91	(1)	6	(1)	113,000	(18,000)
<b>Employment</b>						
<b>Ages 0-17</b>						
Live with employed adult(s)	90	(1)	7	(1)	92,000	(15,000)
Live with no employed adults(s)	76	(8)	11	(6)	6,000	(3,000)
<b>Ages 18-64</b>						
Employed full-time	88	(1)	7	(1)	141,000	(20,000)
Employed part-time	85	(3)	8	(2)	30,000	(9,000)

(continued)

**Table 3. Health Insurance Coverage Over Past Year, Wisconsin 1998 (continued)**

<b>Uninsured All Year</b>			
	Percent	(C.I.±)	Number (C.I.±)
<b>Total</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>(--)</b>	<b>208,000</b> <b>(24,000)</b>
<b>Age Groups</b>			
0-17	3	(1)	41,000 (10,000)
18-44	6	(1)	115,000 (18,000)
45-64	4	(1)	43,000 (11,000)
65+	1	(1)	9,000 (5,000)
<b>Summary Age Groups</b>			
18+	4	(1)	166,000 (22,000)
18-64	5	(1)	157,000 (21,000)
<b>Sex and Age Groups</b>			
<b>Male (Ages 18+)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>83,000</b> <b>(16,000)</b>
18-44	6	(1)	64,000 (14,000)
45-64	3	(1)	16,000 (7,000)
65+	2	(1)	4,000 (4,000)
<b>Female (Ages 18+)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>83,000</b> <b>(15,000)</b>
18-44	5	(1)	51,000 (12,000)
45-64	5	(2)	27,000 (9,000)
65+	1	(1)	5,000 (4,000)
<b>Race/Ethnicity and Age Groups</b>			
<b>All Ages</b>			
White, non-Hispanic	4	(--)	157,000 (22,000)
Black, non-Hispanic	13	(3)	26,000 (5,000)
Hispanic	7	(4)	12,000 (7,000)
<b>Ages 0-17</b>			
White, non-Hispanic	2	(1)	27,000 (9,000)
Black, non-Hispanic	10	(4)	8,000 (3,000)
<b>Ages 18-64</b>			
White, non-Hispanic	4	(1)	122,000 (19,000)
Black, non-Hispanic	15	(4)	17,000 (4,000)
<b>Residence</b>			
City of Milwaukee	6	(1)	39,000 (8,000)
Other Metropolitan (excluding City of Milwaukee)	3	(1)	84,000 (16,000)
Nonmetropolitan	5	(1)	84,000 (16,000)
<b>Poverty Status</b>			
Poor	14	(3)	70,000 (12,000)
Near-poor	6	(1)	56,000 (12,000)
Not poor	2	(--)	70,000 (15,000)
<b>Educational Attainment (Ages 18+)</b>			
Less than high school diploma	10	(3)	37,000 (10,000)
High school graduate	5	(1)	62,000 (14,000)
Education beyond high school	3	(1)	62,000 (14,000)
<b>Employment</b>			
<b>Ages 0-17</b>			
Live with employed adult(s)	3	(1)	35,000 (10,000)
Live with no employed adults(s)	13	(6)	6,000 (3,000)
<b>Ages 18-64</b>			
Employed full-time	4	(1)	80,000 (15,000)
Employed part-time	5	(2)	19,000 (7,000)

Notes: C.I. = Confidence Interval (specifies a range within which the true value probably lies). See Technical Notes.  
A dash (--) indicates less than 0.5%.



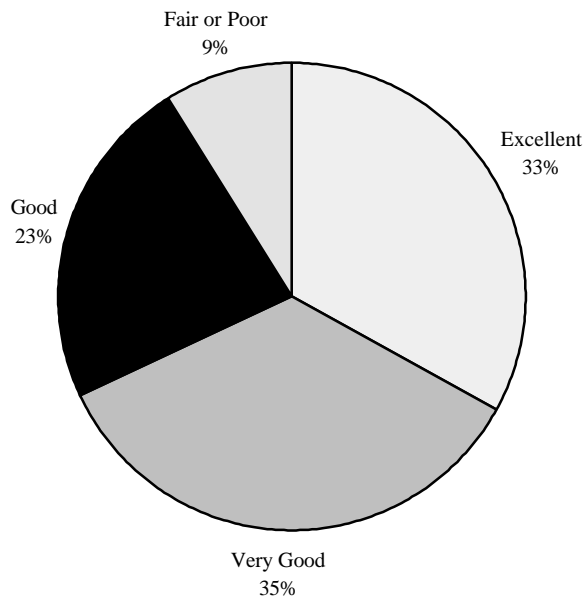
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## Perceived Health Status

In 1998, only 9 percent of the Wisconsin population was considered to be in fair or poor health (479,000 persons) (Figure 7). In general, reported health status worsens with advancing age. The majority of Wisconsin residents under age 65 were reported to be in excellent or very good health. While only 5 percent of children were reported in fair or poor health in 1998, 26 percent of older adults (age 65+) were so reported. Besides the elderly, those more likely to report fair or poor health are the poor and the less educated (see Table 4, page 17).

Perceived health status is the respondent's perception of his or her own health and that of other household members, and is included in many health surveys because it is strongly related to individual health outcomes. For example, persons in fair or poor health are more likely to have been hospitalized during the past year than persons in excellent to good health.

**Figure 7. Perceived Health Status, Wisconsin 1998**

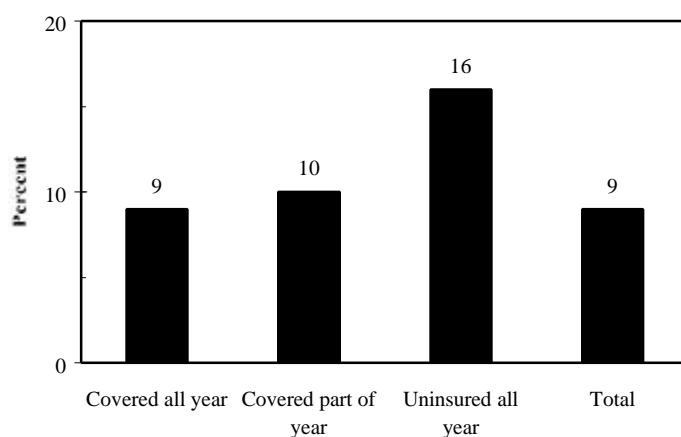


Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

These data are obtained from respondents by asking: *“In general, would you say your health is excellent, very good, good, fair or poor?”* Respondents are also asked to report on the perceived health status of all other household members.

Health status varies with health insurance coverage and poverty status. Those uninsured all year were more likely to be reported as being in fair or poor health (16%) than persons with health insurance coverage (Figure 8 and Table 4, next page).

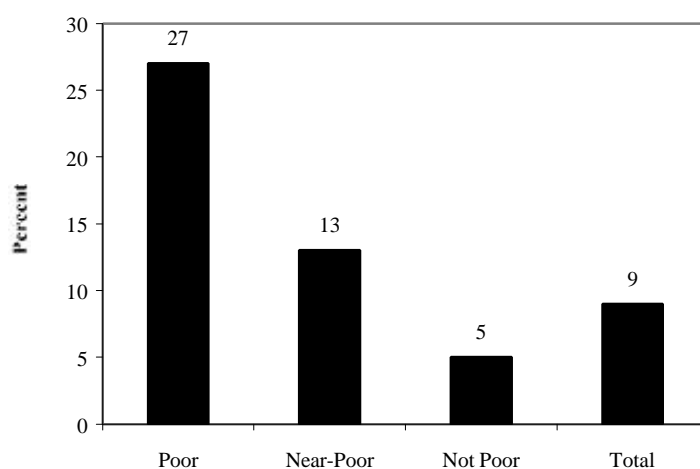
**Figure 8. Fair or Poor Health by Insurance Coverage Over Past Year, Wisconsin 1998**



Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

The poor and near-poor were also more likely to be reported as being in fair or poor health (27% and 13%, respectively) than were non-poor persons (Figure 9).

**Figure 9. Fair or Poor Health by Poverty Status, Wisconsin 1998**



Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

**Table 4. Perceived Health Status, Wisconsin 1998**

	<b>Excellent</b>		<b>Very Good</b>		<b>Good</b>	
	Percent	(C.I.±)	Percent	(C.I.±)	Percent	(C.I.±)
<b>Total</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>(1%)</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>(1%)</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>(1%)</b>
<b>Age Groups</b>						
0-17	48	(2)	32	(2)	15	(2)
18-44	35	(2)	39	(2)	20	(2)
45-64	24	(2)	35	(3)	28	(2)
65+	9	(2)	29	(3)	36	(3)
<b>Summary Age Groups</b>						
18+	27	(1)	36	(1)	25	(1)
18-64	31	(1)	38	(2)	23	(1)
<b>Sex and Age Groups</b>						
<b>Male</b>						
0-17	47	(3)	32	(3)	16	(2)
18-44	38	(3)	38	(3)	19	(2)
45-64	23	(3)	36	(4)	28	(3)
65+	8	(3)	29	(5)	36	(5)
<b>Female</b>						
0-17	50	(3)	31	(3)	14	(2)
18-44	33	(2)	39	(3)	21	(2)
45-64	24	(3)	35	(4)	28	(3)
65+	10	(3)	30	(4)	35	(5)
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>						
White, non-Hispanic	34	(1)	36	(1)	22	(1)
Black, non-Hispanic	27	(3)	23	(3)	31	(4)
Hispanic	23	(6)	26	(7)	26	(7)
<b>Residence</b>						
City of Milwaukee	27	(2)	29	(2)	29	(3)
Other Metropolitan (excluding City of Milwaukee)	35	(2)	36	(2)	20	(1)
Nonmetropolitan	32	(2)	35	(2)	23	(2)
<b>Poverty Status</b>						
Poor	17	(3)	23	(3)	32	(3)
Near-poor	25	(2)	37	(3)	26	(2)
Not poor	38	(1)	37	(1)	19	(1)
<b>Educational Attainment (Ages 18+)</b>						
Less than high school diploma	14	(3)	28	(4)	30	(4)
High school graduate	22	(2)	37	(2)	29	(2)
Education beyond high school	34	(2)	38	(2)	22	(2)
<b>Employment</b>						
<b>Ages 0-17</b>						
Live with employed adult(s)	48	(2)	32	(2)	15	(2)
Live with no employed adult(s)	45	(9)	16	(7)	23	(8)
<b>Ages 18-64</b>						
Employed full-time	32	(2)	40	(2)	22	(2)
Employed part-time	31	(4)	40	(4)	22	(4)
<b>Insurance Coverage over Past Year</b>						
Covered all year	34	(1)	35	(1)	22	(1)
Covered part of year	31	(4)	35	(4)	24	(4)
Uninsured all year	24	(5)	32	(5)	29	(5)

(continued)

# Perceived Health Status

**Table 4. Perceived Health Status, Wisconsin 1998 (continued)**

	<b>Fair or Poor</b>			
	Percent	(C.I.±)	Number	(C.I.±)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>(1%)</b>	<b>479,000</b>	<b>(36,000)</b>
<b>Age Groups</b>				
0-17	5	(1)	64,000	(13,000)
18-44	6	(1)	111,000	(18,000)
45-64	13	(2)	138,000	(20,000)
65+	26	(3)	165,000	(20,000)
<b>Summary Age Groups</b>				
18+	11	(1)	414,000	(34,000)
18-64	8	(1)	249,000	(26,000)
<b>Sex and Age Groups</b>				
<b>Male</b>				
0-17	4	(1)	30,000	(9,000)
18-44	5	(1)	46,000	(12,000)
45-64	13	(3)	70,000	(14,000)
65+	27	(5)	73,000	(13,000)
<b>Female</b>				
0-17	5	(1)	34,000	(9,000)
18-44	7	(1)	65,000	(13,000)
45-64	13	(3)	68,000	(14,000)
65+	25	(4)	92,000	(15,000)
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>				
White, non-Hispanic	8	(1)	378,000	(37,000)
Black, non-Hispanic	18	(3)	37,000	(6,000)
Hispanic	24	(6)	43,000	(12,000)
<b>Residence</b>				
City of Milwaukee	14	(2)	88,000	(12,000)
Other Metropolitan (excluding City of Milwaukee)	8	(1)	232,000	(26,000)
Nonmetropolitan	10	(1)	158,000	(21,000)
<b>Poverty Status</b>				
Poor	27	(3)	132,000	(16,000)
Near-poor	13	(2)	121,000	(17,000)
Not poor	5	(1)	184,000	(23,000)
<b>Educational Attainment (Ages 18+)</b>				
Less than high school diploma	28	(4)	101,000	(15,000)
High school graduate	13	(2)	165,000	(21,000)
Education beyond high school	7	(1)	140,000	(20,000)
<b>Employment</b>				
<b>Ages 0-17</b>				
Live with employed adult(s)	4	(1)	56,000	(12,000)
Live with no employed adult(s)	16	(7)	8,000	(3,000)
<b>Ages 18-64</b>				
Employed full-time	5	(1)	112,000	(18,000)
Employed part-time	7	(2)	26,000	(8,000)
<b>Insurance Coverage over Past Year</b>				
Covered all year	9	(1)	406,000	(33,000)
Covered part of year	10	(3)	34,000	(9,000)
Uninsured all year	16	(4)	32,000	(8,000)

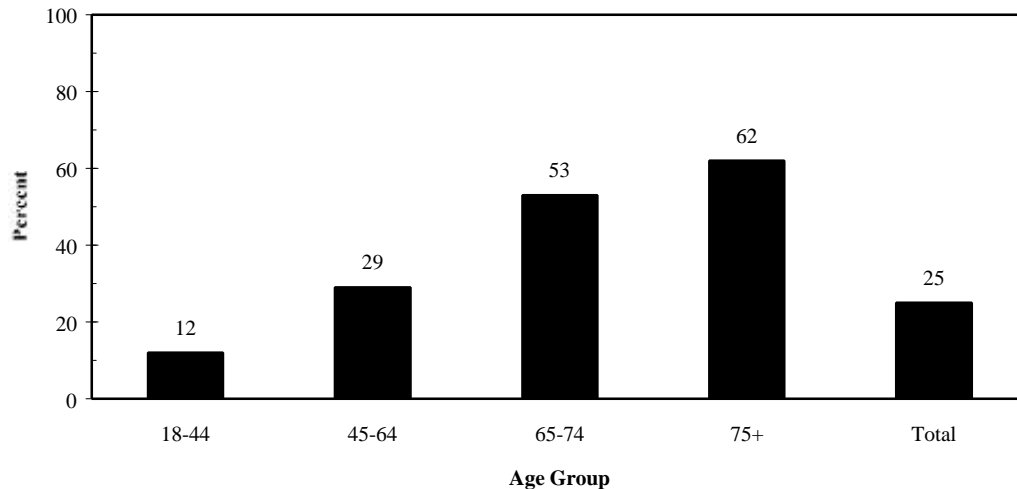
Note: C.I. =Confidence Interval (specifies a range within which the true value probably lies). See Technical Notes.

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## Health-Related Limitations Among Adults

An estimated one-quarter of the adult household population in Wisconsin (921,000) has one or more of four physical limitations due to health problems: trouble walking one block; climbing stairs; bending, lifting or stooping; and/or doing vigorous exercise or work (Figure 10 and Table 5, next page). This percentage increases dramatically with age: 12 percent of 18-44-year-olds versus 62 percent of adults age 75 and older were reported to have one or more of these physical limitations. Those who are poor and those with less education are more likely to be reported as having a physical limitation (Table 7, page 22).

**Figure 10. Adults Reported to Have at Least One of Four Physical Limitations, by Age, Wisconsin 1998**



Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

These estimates were obtained by asking respondents whether any adult household member had trouble with four physical activities because of a health problem. Four separate questions were asked: *“Do any of the adults in your household have trouble walking one block because of a health problem?....walking uphill or climbing a few flights of stairs because of a health problem?....bending, lifting or stooping because of a health problem?....doing vigorous exercise or work, such as lifting heavy objects, running, or participating in strenuous sports because of a health problem?”* These four responses were combined to estimate the percent and number of adults who have one or more of these physical limitations. (See Table 5, next page and Figure 10.)

## Health-Related Limitations Among Adults

Physical limitations in walking; climbing stairs; lifting, bending or stooping; and doing vigorous exercise become more prevalent with increasing age. For example, 2 percent of persons aged 18-44 versus 33 percent of persons aged 75 and older were reported to have difficulty in walking one block (Table 5).

**Table 5. Adults with Specific Physical Limitations, by Age, Wisconsin 1998**

Age Group	Walking One Block		Climbing Few Flights Of Stairs		Bending, Lifting, Stooping		Doing Vigorous Exercise	
	Percent	(C.I.±)	Percent	(C.I.±)	Percent	(C.I.±)	Percent	(C.I.±)
18-44	2%	(1%)	4%	(1%)	6%	(1%)	9%	(1%)
45-64	8	(1)	13	(2)	14	(2)	23	(2)
65-74	19	(4)	28	(4)	27	(4)	44	(5)
75+	33	(5)	32	(5)	31	(5)	52	(6)
Total (age 18+)	8	(1)	11	(1)	12	(1)	20	(1)

At Least One of These Four Physical Limitations				
Age Group	Percent	(C.I.±)	Number	(C.I.±)
18-44	12%	(1%)	244,000	(25,000)
45-64	29	(2)	316,000	(27,000)
65-74	53	(5)	202,000	(18,000)
75+	62	(6)	158,000	(14,000)
Total (age 18+)	25	(1)	921,000	(46,000)

Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

At any given time in 1998, an estimated 249,000 adults in Wisconsin households (7%) were reported to be kept from working at a job, doing work around the house or going to school because of a health problem (Table 6). This estimate may include both persons permanently unable to do these things and those whose disability is temporary.

About 70,000 adults in Wisconsin households (2 percent) had trouble with eating, dressing, bathing, or using the toilet because of a health problem (Table 6).

**Table 6. Adults with Other Health-Related Limitations, by Age, Wisconsin 1998**

Age Group	Kept from Working at Job or at Home or Going to School				Had Trouble Eating, Dressing, Bathing, or Using Toilet			
	Percent	(C.I.±)	Number	(C.I.±)	Percent	(C.I.±)	Number	(C.I.±)
18-44	3%	(1%)	57,000	(13,000)	1%	(--)	19,000	(7,000)
45-64	9	(2)	93,000	(16,000)	1	(1)	15,000	(7,000)
65-74	12	(3)	47,000	(12,000)	3	(2)	11,000	(6,000)
75+	20	(5)	51,000	(12,000)	10	(3)	26,000	(9,000)
Total (age 18+)	7	(1)	249,000	(27,000)	2	(--)	70,000	(15,000)

Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Notes: A dash (--) indicates less than 0.5 percent.

C.I. = Confidence Interval (specifies a range within which the true value probably lies). See Technical Notes.

Respondents were asked about limitations restricting the ability of adult household members to work or attend school: “*Does the health of any of the adults in your household keep them from working at a job, doing work around the house, or going to school?*”

Respondents were also asked about limitations with activities of daily living: “*Do any of the adults in your household have trouble eating, dressing, bathing or using the toilet because of a health problem?*” This question is used to measure disability.

## Health-Related Limitations Among Adults

**Table 7. Health-Related Limitations Among Adults, Wisconsin 1998**

	Has One Or More Physical Limitations*		Kept from Working at Job or Home or Going to School		Has Trouble with Eating, Dressing, Bathing, Using Toilet	
	Percent	(C.I.±)	Percent	(C.I.±)	Percent	(C.I.±)
<b>Total (age 18+)</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>(1%)</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>(1%)</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>(--)</b>
<b>Age Groups</b>						
18-44	12	(1)	3	(1)	1	(--)
45-64	29	(2)	9	(2)	1	(1)
65-74	53	(5)	12	(3)	3	(2)
75+	62	(6)	20	(5)	10	(3)
<b>Summary Age Groups</b>						
18-64	18	(1)	5	(1)	1	(--)
65+	56	(4)	15	(3)	6	(2)
<b>Sex and Age Groups</b>						
<b>Male (Ages 18+)</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>(--)</b>
18-44	10	(2)	2	(1)	1	(--)
45-64	25	(3)	7	(2)	1	(1)
65-74	50	(7)	10	(4)	3	(2)
75+	59	(9)	16	(7)	7	(5)
<b>Female (Ages 18+)</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>(1)</b>
18-44	14	(2)	4	(1)	1	(1)
45-64	34	(4)	10	(2)	2	(1)
65-74	56	(6)	14	(4)	3	(2)
75+	64	(7)	22	(6)	12	(5)
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>						
White, non-Hispanic	25	(1)	7	(1)	2	(--)
Black, non-Hispanic	25	(5)	12	(3)	3	(2)
<b>Residence</b>						
City of Milwaukee	28	(3)	11	(2)	3	(1)
Other Metropolitan (excluding City of Milwaukee)	23	(2)	6	(1)	2	(1)
Nonmetropolitan	26	(2)	7	(1)	2	(1)
<b>Poverty Status</b>						
Poor	39	(5)	22	(4)	7	(3)
Near-poor	33	(3)	10	(2)	2	(1)
Not poor	20	(1)	4	(1)	1	(--)
<b>Educational Attainment (Ages 18+)</b>						
Less than high school diploma	37	(4)	12	(3)	4	(2)
High school graduate	28	(2)	8	(1)	2	(1)
Education beyond high school	21	(2)	5	(1)	2	(1)
<b>Employment</b>						
<b>Ages 18-64</b>						
Employed full-time	14	(1)	1	(--)	--	(--)
Employed part-time	21	(4)	4	(2)	1	(1)
<b>Insurance Coverage over Past Year</b>						
Covered all year	25	(1)	6	(1)	2	(--)
Covered part of year	21	(5)	8	(3)	1	(1)
Uninsured all year	24	(5)	11	(4)	2	(2)

\* Walking one block; climbing stairs; bending, lifting, or stooping; doing vigorous exercise or work.

Notes: A dash (--) indicates less than 0.5 percent.

C.I. = Confidence Interval (specifies a range within which the true value probably lies). See Technical Notes.

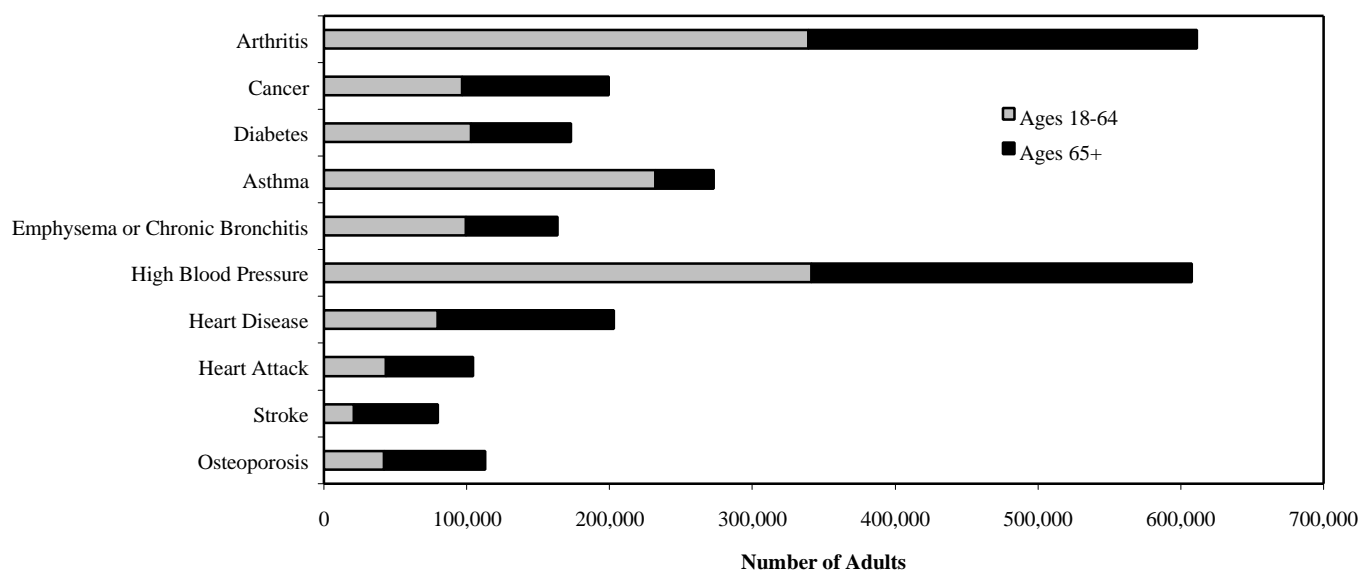
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## Chronic Conditions Among Adults

In 1998, over 1.4 million adults living in Wisconsin households were reported to have one or more of ten chronic conditions. Over 611,000 adults (16%) have been diagnosed with arthritis (Figure 11 and Table 8, next page). (As with all other Family Health Survey results, these estimates do not include persons living in nursing homes and other institutional settings.) Sixteen percent of adults (608,000) report having been told by a doctor that they have high blood pressure.

Except for asthma, the percentage of the population afflicted with any of these chronic conditions increases with age. For example, 4 percent of 18-44-year-olds have arthritis, compared with 50 percent of adults 75 and older (see Table 8, next page).

**Figure 11. Estimated Number of Adults (in Households) Ever Diagnosed with Various Chronic Conditions, Wisconsin 1998**



Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

To obtain data on the prevalence of diagnosed arthritis, cancer, diabetes, asthma, emphysema or chronic bronchitis, high blood pressure, heart disease, heart attack, stroke, and osteoporosis, respondents were asked about a diagnosis by a medical doctor. *“Has anyone in your household ever been told by a doctor that they have (each of ten chronic diseases)?”* These estimates of disease in the population are underestimates, since they do not include cases not yet diagnosed.

## Chronic Conditions Among Adults

**Table 8. Chronic Conditions Ever Diagnosed Among Adults, by Age, Wisconsin 1998**

Arthritis					Cancer			
Age Group	Percent	(C.I.±)	Number	(C.I.±)	Percent	(C.I.±)	Number	(C.I.±)
18-44	4%	(1%)	89,000	(16,000)	1%	(--)	29,000	(9,000)
45-64	23	(2)	251,000	(25,000)	6	(1)	68,000	(14,000)
65-74	38	(5)	145,000	(17,000)	15	(3)	57,000	(13,000)
75+	50	(6)	127,000	(15,000)	18	(4)	45,000	(11,000)
Total (ages 18+)	16	(1)	612,000	(40,000)	5	(1)	199,000	(24,000)
Diabetes					Asthma			
Age Group	Percent	(C.I.±)	Number	(C.I.±)	Percent	(C.I.±)	Number	(C.I.±)
18-44	1%	(--)	23,000	(8,000)	8%	(1%)	166,000	(21,000)
45-64	7	(1)	80,000	(15,000)	6	(1)	66,000	(14,000)
65-74	12	(3)	45,000	(12,000)	7	(2)	25,000	(9,000)
75+	10	(3)	25,000	(9,000)	6	(3)	16,000	(7,000)
Total (ages 18+)	5	(1)	173,000	(23,000)	7	(1)	273,000	(28,000)
Emphysema or Chronic Bronchitis					High Blood Pressure			
Age Group	Percent	(C.I.±)	Number	(C.I.±)	Percent	(C.I.±)	Number	(C.I.±)
18-44	2%	(1%)	44,000	(11,000)	5%	(1%)	106,000	(17,000)
45-64	5	(1)	55,000	(13,000)	22	(2)	235,000	(24,000)
65-74	9	(3)	34,000	(10,000)	39	(5)	149,000	(17,000)
75+	12	(4)	31,000	(10,000)	46	(6)	117,000	(15,000)
Total (ages 18+)	4	(1)	163,000	(22,000)	16	(1)	608,000	(40,000)
Heart Disease					Heart Attack			
Age Group	Percent	(C.I.±)	Number	(C.I.±)	Percent	(C.I.±)	Number	(C.I.±)
18-44	1%	(--)	15,000	(7,000)	--	(--)	3,000	(3,000)
45-64	6	(1)	65,000	(14,000)	4%	(1)	40,000	(11,000)
65-74	19	(4)	71,000	(14,000)	10	(3)	39,000	(11,000)
75+	20	(5)	52,000	(12,000)	9	(3)	23,000	(8,000)
Total (ages 18+)	5	(1)	203,000	(24,000)	3	(--)	104,000	(18,000)
Stroke					Osteoporosis			
Age Group	Percent	(C.I.±)	Number	(C.I.±)	Percent	(C.I.±)	Number	(C.I.±)
18-44	--	(--)	4,000	(3,000)	--%	(--)	9,000	(5,000)
45-64	2%	(1)	18,000	(7,000)	3	(1)	33,000	(10,000)
65-74	6	(2)	25,000	(9,000)	7	(2)	28,000	(9,000)
75+	13	(4)	34,000	(10,000)	17	(4)	44,000	(11,000)
Total (ages 18+)	2	(--)	80,000	(16,000)	3	(--)	113,000	(18,000)
Any of These 10 Chronic Conditions								
Age Group	Percent	(C.I.±)	Number	(C.I.±)				
18-44	20%	(2%)	400,000	(31,000)				
45-64	50	(3)	540,000	(29,000)				
65-74	79	(4)	299,000	(15,000)				
75+	83	(4)	213,000	(11,000)				
Total (ages 18+)	39	(1)	1,451,000	(52,000)				

Notes: A dash (--) indicates less than 0.5 percent.

C.I. = Confidence Interval (specifies a range within which the true value probably lies). See Technical Notes.

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## Use of Health Services

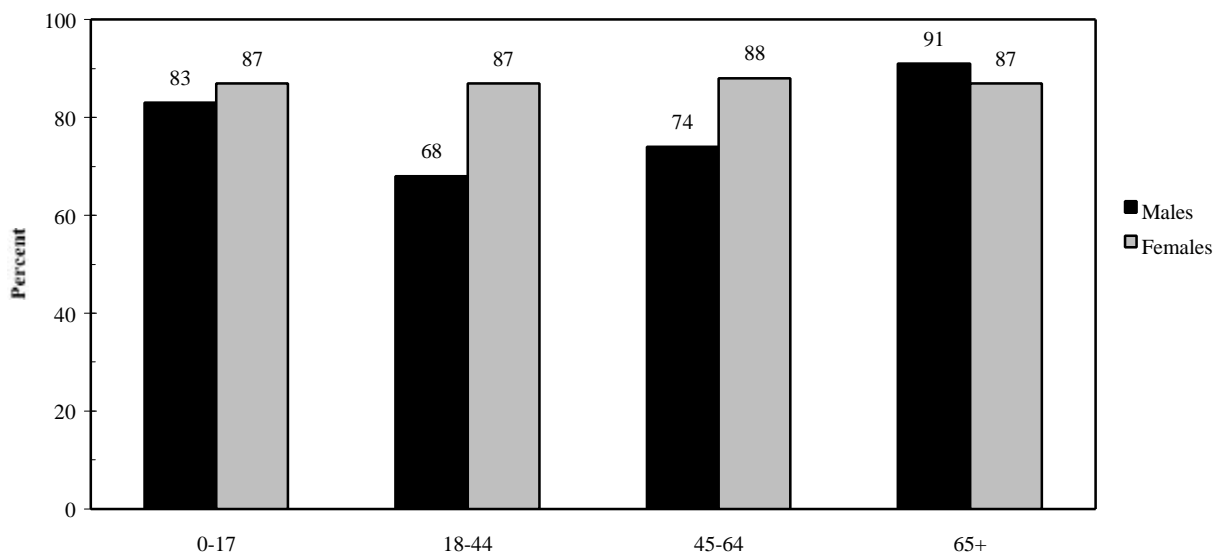
### Doctor Visits

Based on 1998 survey results, most Wisconsin residents saw a doctor at least once during the past year (the 12 months preceding the survey interview). Overall, 82 percent of Wisconsin residents saw a doctor during the past year.

Among adults, women were more likely than men to have seen a doctor in the past year (Figure 12 and Table 9, page 28). This was especially true for women of childbearing age (18-44). Among adults 65 and over, however, there appeared to be no significant difference by sex in this measure.

Adults over age 65 are more likely to have seen a doctor in the past year than were adults under age 65 (see Table 9, page 28). Children also had high rates of doctor visits.

**Figure 12. Saw a Medical Doctor in the Past Year, by Age and Sex, Wisconsin 1998**

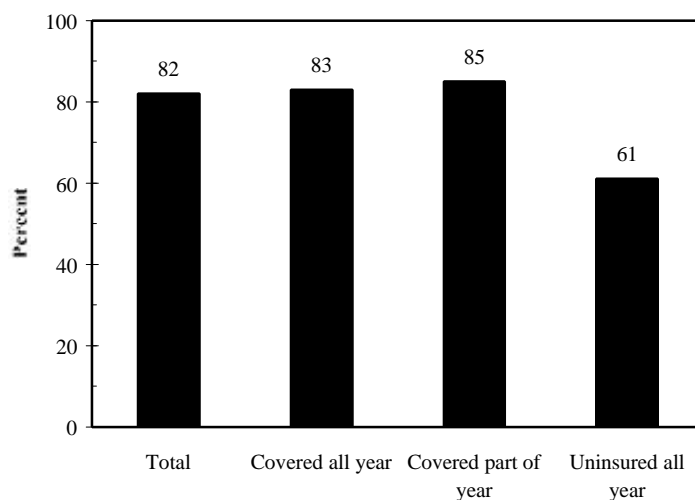


Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

These estimates were derived from the question: “*How long has it been since you last saw a medical doctor?*” This includes a doctor visit for any reason: a checkup, injury, emergency room visit, etc.

Persons who were uninsured for the entire past year were less likely to have seen a doctor than were persons with health insurance (Figure 13).

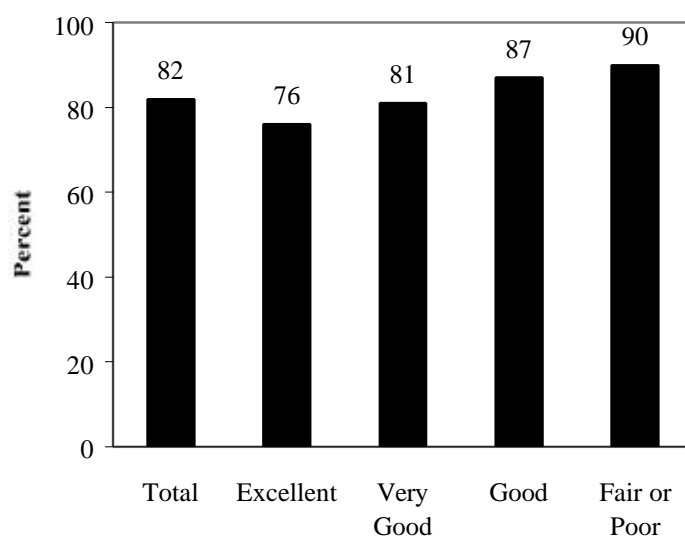
**Figure 13. Saw a Medical Doctor in the Past Year, by Insurance Coverage During Year, Wisconsin 1998**



Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Persons who perceived themselves to be in fair or poor health were the most likely to have seen a doctor in the past 12 months (Figure 14).

**Figure 14. Saw Doctor in Past Year by Perceived Health Status, Wisconsin 1998**

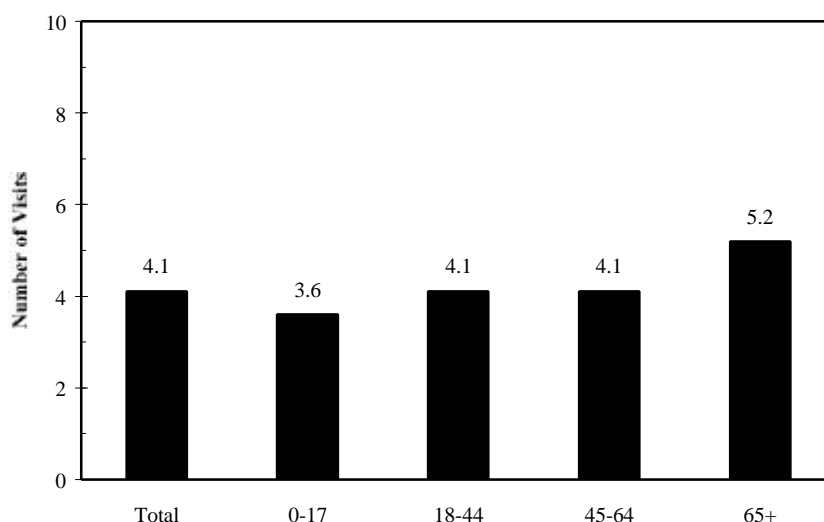


Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Over one-third of the Wisconsin household population (36%) saw a doctor three or more times during the past year. Older adults (65+) were more likely to report this many doctor visits (see Table 9, next page).

Older adults (age 65+) had the highest average number of doctor visits (5.2) among all persons who saw a doctor in the past year (Figure 15).

**Figure 15. Average Number of Doctor Visits in Past Year Among Those Who Saw a Doctor, by Age, Wisconsin 1998**



Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Data were obtained by asking respondents, “*In the past 12 months, how many times have you seen a medical doctor for some health care or advice, not counting informal advice from relatives or friends who are medical doctors?*” (In answering this question, respondents could include general practitioners, specialists such as surgeons, obstetricians, psychiatrists, etc., and all MDs and osteopaths, but not nurses, chiropractors, dentists or acupuncturists.)

# Use of Health Services

**Table 9. Saw a Medical Doctor in the Past Year, Wisconsin 1998**

	Saw Doctor in Past Year				Saw Doctor 3 or More Times in Past Year	
	Percent	(C.I.±)	Number	(C.I.±)	Percent	(C.I.±)
<b>Total</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>(1%)</b>	<b>4,147,000</b>	<b>(47,000)</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>(1%)</b>
<b>Age Groups</b>						
0-17	85	(2)	1,151,000	(21,000)	36	(2)
18-44	78	(2)	1,562,000	(32,000)	31	(2)
45-64	81	(2)	870,000	(23,000)	36	(3)
65+	89	(2)	564,000	(15,000)	53	(4)
<b>Summary Age Groups</b>						
18+	80	(1)	2,996,000	(43,000)	36	(1)
18-64	79	(1)	2,432,000	(40,000)	33	(1)
<b>Sex and Age Groups</b>						
<b>Male</b>						
0-17	83	(2)	577,000	(16,000)	37	(3)
18-44	68	(3)	689,000	(26,000)	21	(2)
45-64	74	(3)	391,000	(18,000)	31	(4)
65+	91	(3)	245,000	(9,000)	52	(6)
<b>Female</b>						
0-17	87	(2)	574,000	(10,000)	35	(2)
18-44	87	(2)	873,000	(18,000)	42	(3)
45-64	88	(2)	479,000	(14,000)	40	(4)
65+	87	(3)	318,000	(12,000)	53	(5)
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>						
White, non-Hispanic	82	(1)	3,680,000	(46,000)	36	(1)
Black, non-Hispanic	88	(3)	181,000	(5,000)	44	(4)
Hispanic	79	(6)	142,000	(11,000)	34	(7)
<b>Residence</b>						
City of Milwaukee	85	(2)	527,000	(12,000)	38	(3)
Other Metropolitan (excluding City of Milwaukee)	82	(1)	2,314,000	(37,000)	36	(2)
Nonmetropolitan	80	(2)	1,305,000	(28,000)	36	(2)
<b>Poverty Status</b>						
Poor	82	(3)	397,000	(14,000)	43	(4)
Near-poor	81	(2)	763,000	(21,000)	39	(3)
Not poor	82	(1)	2,842,000	(40,000)	34	(1)
<b>Educational Attainment (Ages 18+)</b>						
Less than high school diploma	83	(3)	303,000	(13,000)	44	(5)
High school graduate	78	(2)	1,023,000	(27,000)	35	(2)
Education beyond high school	82	(2)	1,649,000	(30,000)	36	(2)
<b>Employment</b>						
<b>Ages 0-17</b>						
Live with employed adult(s)	85	(2)	1,105,000	(21,000)	36	(2)
Live with no employed adult(s)	91	(5)	46,000	(3,000)	53	(9)
<b>Ages 18-64</b>						
Employed full-time	76	(2)	1,579,000	(34,000)	29	(2)
Employed part-time	84	(3)	311,000	(12,000)	36	(4)
<b>Insurance During Past Year</b>						
Covered all year	83	(1)	3,722,000	(44,000)	37	(1)
Covered part of year	85	(3)	272,000	(11,000)	41	(5)
Uninsured all year	61	(5)	126,000	(11,000)	23	(5)

Note: C.I. = Confidence Interval (specifies a range within which the true value probably lies). See Technical Notes.

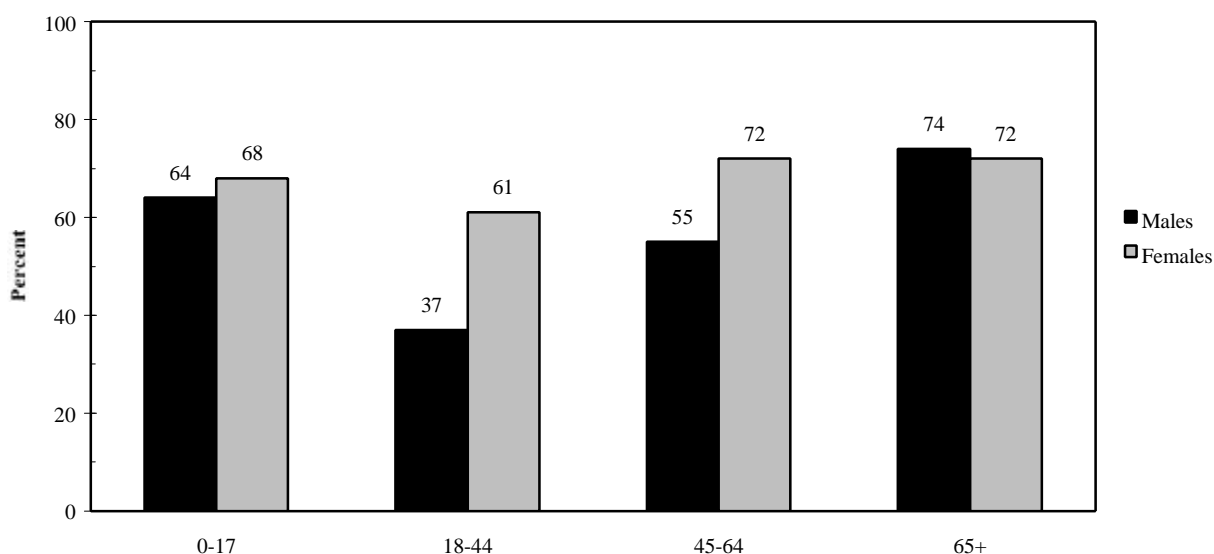
## Physical Examinations

Based on 1998 survey results, more than half (60%) of Wisconsin residents had a physical examination during the past year (the 12 months preceding the survey interview). (See Table 10, page 31.) In general, women were more likely to have had a recent physical examination than were men. Men ages 18-44 were less likely than men of other ages and women of all ages to have had a physical (Figure 16).

Blacks were more likely than whites to have had a physical exam in the past year. Children living with no employed adult were more likely than children living with at least one employed adult to have had a physical exam in the past year (see Table 10, page 31).

Those with no health insurance coverage for the entire year were less likely to have had a physical (40%) than were persons with insurance during part (57%) or all of the year (61%) (see Table 10, page 31).

**Figure 16. Physical Examination in the Past Year, by Age and Sex, Wisconsin 1998**



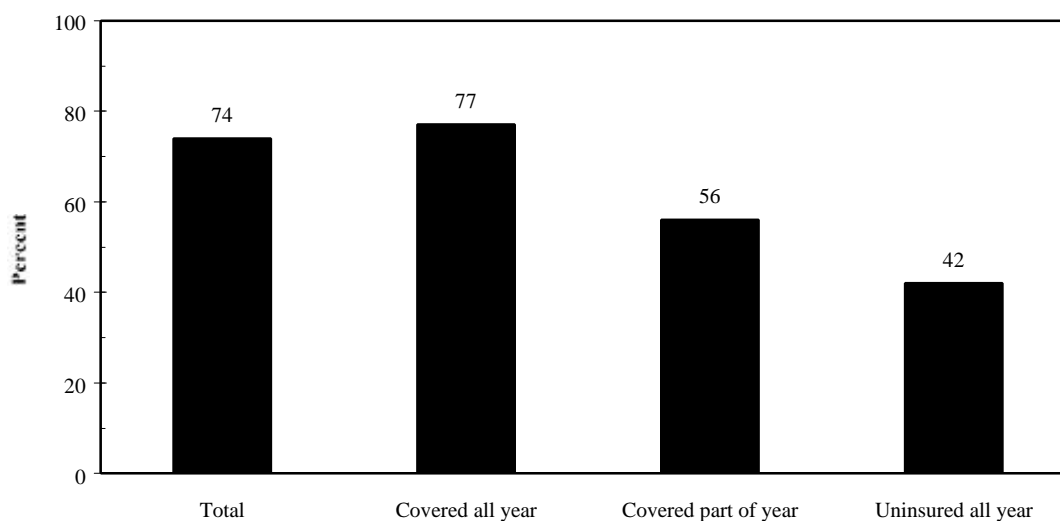
Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Data were obtained by asking: “Many adults and children get a general physical examination or checkup once in a while. How long has it been since you had a general checkup for which an appointment had been made?”

### Dental Visits

Overall, 74 percent of Wisconsin residents were reported to have seen a dentist during the past year (Table 10, next page and Figure 17). This proportion varied widely with health insurance coverage: 77 percent of those with coverage for the entire past year saw a dentist compared with 42 percent for those uninsured all year. It also varied with poverty status: 50 percent of the poor, 66 percent of the near-poor and 80 percent of the non-poor were reported to have seen a dentist during the past year (see Table 10, next page).

**Figure 17. Saw a Dentist in the Past Year (Age 3 and Older), by Insurance Coverage During Year, Wisconsin 1998**



Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Respondents were asked “*How long ago did you last visit the dentist?*” If respondents inquired, they were told to include any kind of dental health care provider, such as endodontist, periodontist, and orthodontist.

**Table 10. Physical Examinations and Dental Visits, Wisconsin 1998**

	Physical Exam in Past Year**				Dental Visit in Past Year*	
	Percent	(C.I.±)	Number	(C.I.±)	Percent	(C.I.±)
<b>Total</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>(1%)</b>	<b>3,027,000</b>	<b>(60,000)</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>(1%)</b>
<b>Age Groups</b>						
0-17	66	(2)	891,000	(29,000)	84	(2)
18-44	49	(2)	986,000	(39,000)	71	(2)
45-64	64	(3)	684,000	(28,000)	76	(2)
65+	73	(3)	465,000	(21,000)	62	(4)
<b>Summary Age Groups</b>						
18+	57	(1)	2,136,000	(53,000)	71	(1)
18-64	54	(2)	1,671,000	(48,000)	73	(1)
<b>Sex and Age Groups</b>						
<b>Male</b>						
0-17	64	(3)	445,000	(20,000)	83	(2)
18-44	37	(3)	373,000	(27,000)	65	(3)
45-64	55	(4)	292,000	(20,000)	75	(3)
65+	74	(5)	201,000	(13,000)	65	(5)
<b>Female</b>						
0-17	68	(3)	446,000	(20,000)	84	(3)
18-44	61	(3)	613,000	(26,000)	76	(2)
45-64	72	(3)	393,000	(19,000)	78	(3)
65+	72	(4)	264,000	(16,000)	60	(4)
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>						
White, non-Hispanic	59	(1)	2,671,000	(58,000)	75	(1)
Black, non-Hispanic	74	(3)	153,000	(7,000)	67	(4)
Hispanic	51	(8)	92,000	(14,000)	53	(8)
<b>Residence</b>						
City of Milwaukee	63	(3)	390,000	(17,000)	64	(3)
Other Metropolitan (excluding City of Milwaukee)	60	(2)	1,706,000	(47,000)	77	(1)
Nonmetropolitan	57	(2)	931,000	(35,000)	71	(2)
<b>Poverty Status</b>						
Poor	57	(4)	277,000	(18,000)	50	(4)
Near-poor	58	(3)	547,000	(26,000)	66	(3)
Not poor	60	(1)	2,088,000	(50,000)	80	(1)
<b>Educational Attainment (Ages 18+)</b>						
Less than high school diploma	60	(4)	219,000	(16,000)	51	(5)
High school graduate	55	(2)	726,000	(32,000)	68	(2)
Education beyond high school	59	(2)	1,176,000	(39,000)	77	(2)
<b>Employment</b>						
<b>Ages 0-17</b>						
Live with employed adult(s)	65	(2)	850,000	(28,000)	84	(2)
Live with no employed adult(s)	80	(7)	41,000	(4,000)	83	(7)
<b>Ages 18-64</b>						
Employed full-time	51	(2)	1,048,000	(40,000)	72	(2)
Employed part-time	63	(4)	236,000	(16,000)	81	(3)
<b>Insurance During Past Year</b>						
Covered all year	61	(1)	2,737,000	(57,000)	77	(1)
Covered part of year	57	(5)	185,000	(15,000)	56	(5)
Uninsured all year	40	(5)	83,000	(11,000)	42	(5)

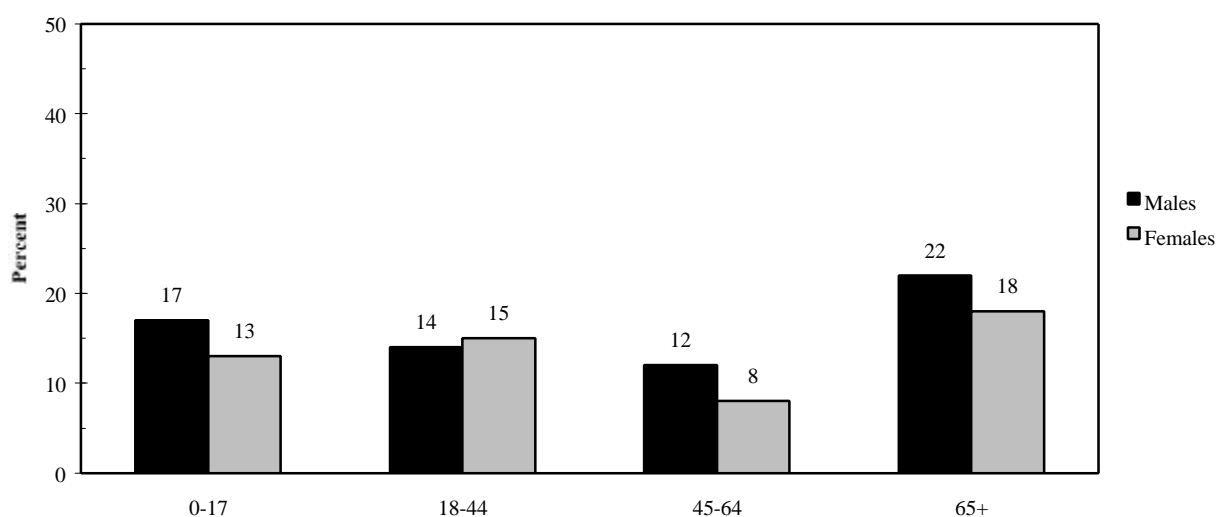
\* Age 3 and older. \*\* 3% did not answer.

Note: C.I. = Confidence Interval (specifies a range within which the true value probably lies). See Technical Notes.

## Emergency Room Treatment

An estimated 14 percent of Wisconsin household residents (730,000) were treated in an emergency room (ER) during the past year (see Table 11, page 34). Those with higher rates of ER use included blacks, the poor, residents of Milwaukee City, those with less education, and children who live with no employed adults. Differences in emergency room treatment by age and sex were small (Figure 18).

**Figure 18. Treated in Emergency Room in Past Year, by Age and Sex, Wisconsin 1998**

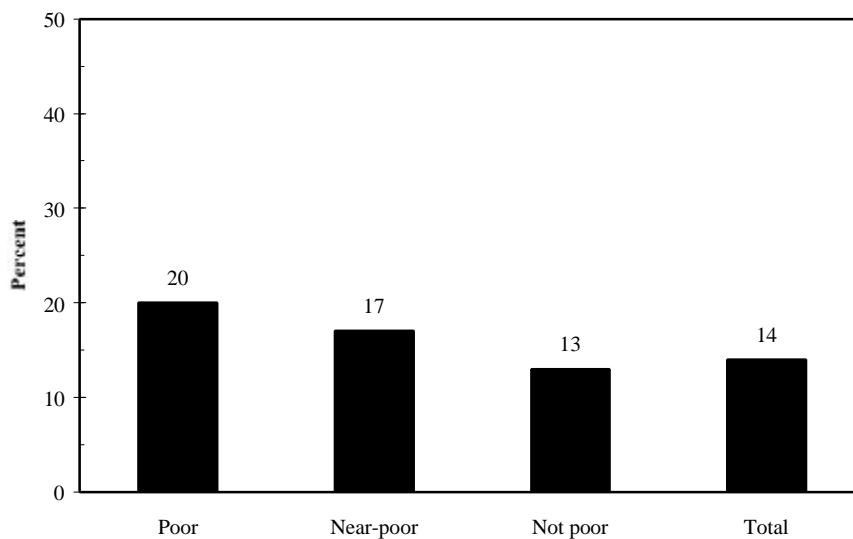


Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Respondents were asked: “Who in your household has been treated at a hospital emergency room during the past 12 months; that is, since (date)?” “About how many times in the past 12 months has (name) been treated in an emergency room?”

Emergency room treatment during the past year was more common among the poor than among the near-poor and not poor (Figure 19).

**Figure 19. Treated in Emergency Room in Past Year, by Poverty Status, Wisconsin 1998**



Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Black residents were more likely than white residents to have been treated in an emergency room several times during the year (see Table 11, next page). Four percent of black persons had been to an emergency room at least three times during the past year, compared with 1 percent of white persons.

# Use of Health Services

**Table 11. Treated in Emergency Room in Past Year, Wisconsin 1998**

	Treated in ER in Past Year				Treated in ER 3+ Times in Past Year	
	Percent	(C.I.±)	Number	(C.I.±)	Percent	(C.I.±)
<b>Total</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>(1%)</b>	<b>730,000</b>	<b>(43,000)</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>(--)</b>
<b>Age Groups</b>						
0-17	15	(2)	208,000	(22,000)	2	(1)
18-44	14	(1)	288,000	(27,000)	2	(--)
45-64	10	(2)	110,000	(18,000)	1	(1)
65+	20	(3)	125,000	(18,000)	2	(1)
<b>Summary Age Groups</b>						
18+	14	(1)	522,000	(37,000)	1	(--)
18-64	13	(1)	397,000	(32,000)	1	(--)
<b>Sex and Age Groups</b>						
<b>Male</b>						
0-17	17	(2)	119,000	(16,000)	2	(1)
18-44	14	(2)	140,000	(20,000)	1	(1)
45-64	12	(3)	63,000	(13,000)	1	(1)
65+	22	(5)	60,000	(12,000)	2	(2)
<b>Female</b>						
0-17	13	(2)	88,000	(15,000)	1	(1)
18-44	15	(2)	148,000	(19,000)	2	(1)
45-64	8	(2)	46,000	(12,000)	1	(1)
65+	18	(4)	64,000	(14,000)	1	(1)
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>						
White, non-Hispanic	14	(1)	622,000	(41,000)	1	(--)
Black, non-Hispanic	26	(3)	54,000	(7,000)	4	(1)
Hispanic	17	(6)	32,000	(10,000)	2	(2)
<b>Residence</b>						
City of Milwaukee	20	(2)	126,000	(14,000)	1	(1)
Other Metropolitan (excluding City of Milwaukee)	13	(1)	376,000	(33,000)	1	(--)
Nonmetropolitan	14	(2)	227,000	(25,000)	2	(1)
<b>Poverty Status</b>						
Poor	20	(3)	98,000	(14,000)	3	(1)
Near-poor	17	(2)	158,000	(19,000)	2	(1)
Not poor	13	(1)	443,000	(34,000)	1	(--)
<b>Educational Attainment (Ages 18+)</b>						
Less than high school diploma	18	(4)	64,000	(13,000)	3	(2)
High school graduate	16	(2)	212,000	(24,000)	1	(1)
Education beyond high school	12	(1)	242,000	(26,000)	1	(--)
<b>Employment</b>						
<b>Ages 0-17</b>						
Live with employed adult(s)	15	(2)	199,000	(21,000)	2	(1)
Live with no employed adult(s)	18	(7)	9,000	(4,000)	4	(3)
<b>Ages 18-64</b>						
Employed full-time	12	(1)	239,000	(26,000)	1	(--)
Employed part-time	13	(3)	49,000	(11,000)	2	(1)
<b>Insurance During Past Year</b>						
Covered all year	14	(1)	624,000	(40,000)	1	(--)
Covered part of year	21	(4)	67,000	(12,000)	3	(2)
Uninsured all year	14	(4)	28,000	(8,000)	2	(2)

Notes: A dash (--) indicates less than 0.5 percent.

C.I. = Confidence Interval (specifies a range within which the true value probably lies). See Technical Notes

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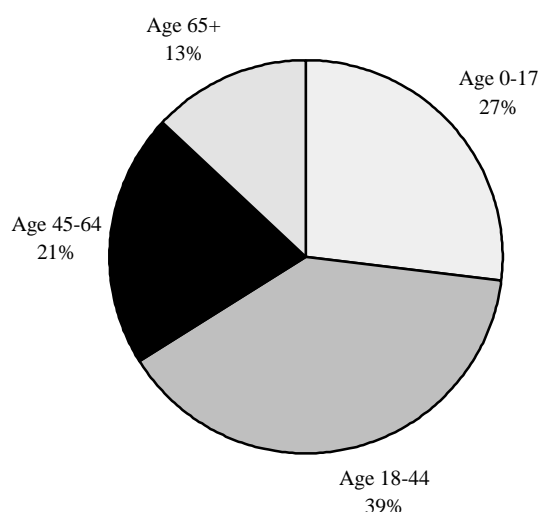
## Household Population Characteristics

The Family Health Survey is considered to be representative of all persons who live in Wisconsin households. Survey results can be used to describe household residents, keeping in mind that survey estimates are going to differ from results of a complete census.

According to 1998 FHS results, approximately 61 percent of the household population is in the age bracket generally considered to be “working age” (ages 18-64) (Figure 20). Another 13 percent are adults age 65 and older, while 27 percent of the household population are children.

The household population consists of males and females in roughly equal proportions (49% and 51%, respectively) (not shown in a graphic).

**Figure 20. Household Population by Age, Wisconsin 1998**

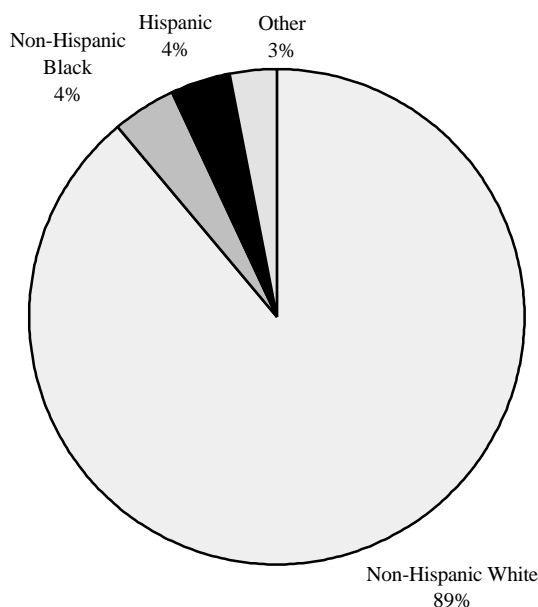


Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

The vast majority of Wisconsin's household population is non-Hispanic white. Minorities constitute about 11 percent of the population, according to estimates from the Family Health Survey (Figure 21).

Among children, minorities constitute 18 percent of the population and non-Hispanic whites constitute 81 percent (not shown in table).

**Figure 21. Household Population by Race and Ethnicity, Wisconsin 1998**



Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

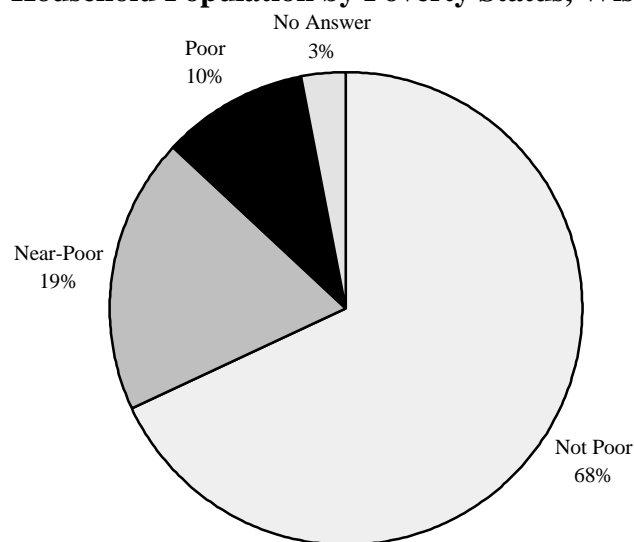
Race estimates are based on the question, *“Is your race white, black, Asian or American Indian?”* Following this question, respondents are asked about ethnicity: *“Who, if anyone, in your household is of Hispanic origin, such as Mexican-American, Latin American, Puerto Rican or Cuban?”*

Ten percent of Wisconsin's household population lived in a poor household in 1998 (Figure 22).

Fourteen percent of children living in Wisconsin households were poor, and another 22 percent were near-poor (Table 12).

Poverty status was determined by asking respondents about total household income from all sources in 1997 and the number of people living in the household (see Technical Notes).

**Figure 22. Household Population by Poverty Status, Wisconsin 1998**



Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

**Table 12. Household Population by Poverty Status and Age, Wisconsin 1998**

Age Group*	Poverty Status							
	Poor				Near poor		Not poor	
	Percent	(C.I.±)	Number	(C.I.±)	Percent	(C.I.±)	Percent	(C.I.±)
0-17	14%	(2%)	186,000	(21,000)	22%	(2%)	63%	(2%)
18-44	8	(1)	157,000	(21,000)	17	(1)	75	(2)
45-64	6	(1)	64,000	(14,000)	12	(2)	78	(2)
Total (All ages)	10	(1)	485,000	(36,000)	19	(1)	68	(1)

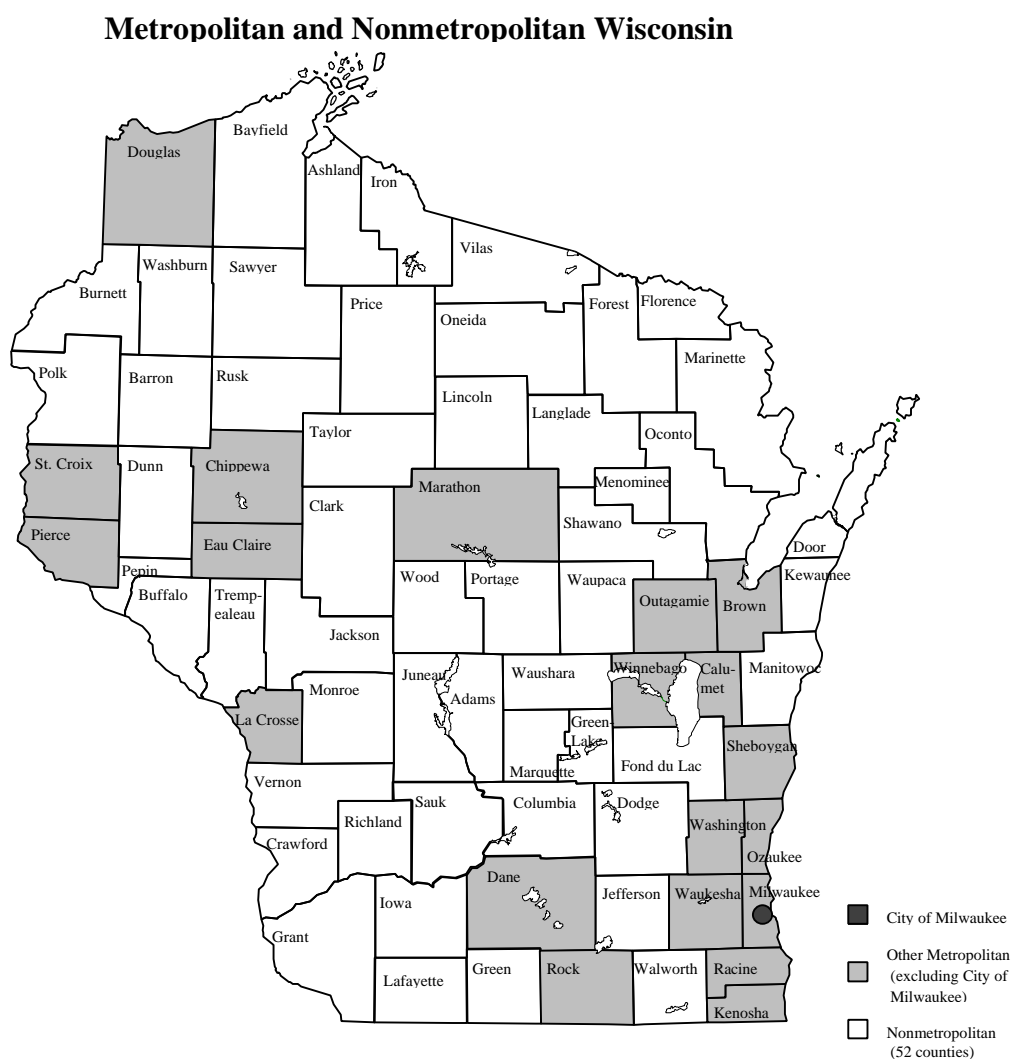
Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

\* Poverty status could not be estimated for 16 percent of persons 65 and older.

## Household Population Characteristics

Based on 1998 Family Health Survey estimates, 12 percent of the state's household population live in the City of Milwaukee, another 56 percent live in the balance of Milwaukee County and the other 19 metropolitan counties, and 32 percent live in the 52 nonmetropolitan counties (Figure 23).

**Figure 23.**



Source: Office of Management and Budget and U.S. Bureau of the Census, December 1992

An estimated 3,323,000 Wisconsin adults have completed high school or more education (89 percent of all adults living in households) (Table 13).

The proportion of “working-age” adults (ages 18-64) who have completed high school or more education (91%) is larger than the proportion among older adults (78%).

**Table 13. Adult Household Population by Educational Attainment and Age, Wisconsin 1998**

Age Groups	Education Completed					
	Less than high school		High school graduate		More than high school	
	Percent	(C.I.±)	Percent	(C.I.±)	Percent	(C.I.±)
18-44	8%	(1%)	31%	(2%)	60%	(2%)
45-64	7	(1)	40	(3)	52	(3)
65+	20	(3)	41	(4)	37	(4)
All Adults (18+)	10	(1)	35	(1)	54	(1)

Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Notes: C.I. = Confidence Interval (specifies a range within which the true value probably lies). See Technical Notes. “Less than high school” means did not graduate from high school and does not have a G.E.D. (General Educational Development certificate).

In 1998, an estimated 67 percent of adults ages 18-64 (2,064,000 residents) were employed full-time and 12 percent (371,000 residents) were employed part-time, making a total of 79 percent who were employed (Table 14 and Figure 24). Men and women differ in the proportion employed full- or part-time.

Ten percent of persons age 65 and older were employed; more than half (76 percent) of these older workers were employed part-time (not shown in table).

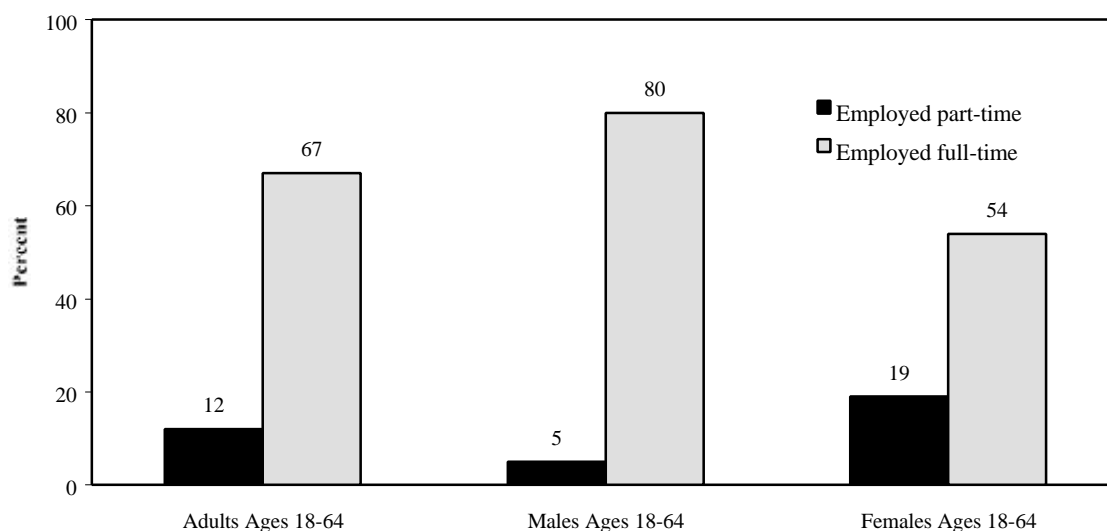
**Table 14. Household Population by Employment Status and Sex (Adults Ages 18-64), Wisconsin 1998**

	Employment			
	Employed Full-time		Employed Part-time	
	Percent	(C.I.±)	Percent	(C.I.±)
Males	80%	(2%)	5%	(1%)
Females	54	(2)	19	(2)
All Adults (18-64)	67	(1)	12	(1)

Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Note: C.I. = Confidence Interval (specifies a range within which the true value probably lies). See Technical Notes

**Figure 24. Household Population by Employment Status and Sex (Adults Ages 18-64), Wisconsin 1998**



Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

**Table 15. Characteristics of Wisconsin's Household Population, 1998**

	Percent	(C.I.±)	Number	(C.I.±)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>		<b>5,076,000</b>	
<b>Age Groups</b>				
0-17	27	(1%)	1,354,000	(54,000)
18-44	40	(1)	2,014,000	(60,000)
45-64	21	(1)	1,073,000	(50,000)
65+	13	(1)	636,000	(41,000)
<b>Sex and Age Groups</b>				
<b>Male</b>				
0-17	28	(2)	694,000	(39,000)
18-44	40	(2)	1,009,000	(43,000)
45-64	21	(1)	528,000	(35,000)
65+	11	(1)	270,000	(27,000)
<b>Female</b>				
0-17	26	(1)	660,000	(38,000)
18-44	39	(2)	1,005,000	(42,000)
45-64	21	(1)	545,000	(36,000)
65+	14	(1)	365,000	(30,000)
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>				
White, non-Hispanic	89	(1)	4,504,000	(39,000)
Black, non-Hispanic	4	(--)	206,000	(24,000)
Hispanic	4	(--)	180,000	(23,000)
<b>Residence</b>				
City of Milwaukee	12	(1)	620,000	(40,000)
Other Metropolitan (excluding City of Milwaukee)	56	(1)	2,831,000	(61,000)
Nonmetropolitan	32	(1)	1,625,000	(57,000)
<b>Poverty Status</b>				
Poor	10	(1)	485,000	(36,000)
Near-poor	19	(1)	948,000	(48,000)
Not poor	68	(1)	3,472,000	(57,000)
<b>Educational Attainment</b>				
<b>Ages 18 and older:</b>				
Less than high school diploma	10	(1)	364,000	(32,000)
High school graduate	35	(1)	1,317,000	(51,000)
Education beyond high school	54	(1)	2,006,000	(53,000)
<b>Employment</b>				
<b>Ages 0-17</b>				
Live with employed adult(s)	96	(1)	1,303,000	(11,000)
Lived with no employed adult(s)	4	(1)	51,000	(11,000)
<b>Ages 18-64</b>				
Employed full-time	67	(1)	2,064,000	(46,000)
Employed part-time	12	(1)	371,000	(31,000)

Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Notes: A dash (--) indicates less than 0.5 percent.

C.I. = Confidence Interval (specifies a range within which the true value probably lies). See Technical Notes.



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## Technical Notes

### Wisconsin Family Health Survey Design

The Wisconsin Family Health Survey (FHS) is a telephone survey of Wisconsin households, designed to provide estimates of health care coverage, various health problems, and use of health care services by people across the state.

The FHS sampling frame consists of all Wisconsin households with a working telephone. In 1998, the sample design for selecting telephone numbers for the survey divided the state into six sample strata, five of which were defined geographically by grouping all of the counties into five areas. Telephone area code/prefix combinations from these five strata were randomly sampled at rates proportionate to the population size of each stratum. A sixth sample stratum consisted of telephone prefixes within the City of Milwaukee that had previously been found to include at least 20 percent black respondents. This stratum was also randomly sampled.

The Wisconsin Survey Research Laboratory, University of Wisconsin-Extension, was under contract to draw the samples and conduct all interviews. Trained interviewers called the sampled telephone numbers and conducted the survey using a computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) system. Each telephone number was called at least 10 times before being designated unanswered. The final overall response rate was 64 percent.

Interviews were conducted during every month of 1998; the number of interviews conducted each month ranged from a low of 176 in October to a high of 249 in September.

The final FHS sample for 1998 consisted of 2,463 household interviews, representing a total of 6,560 Wisconsin household residents. The sample design produced the following:

The demographic characteristics of the 1998 sample are displayed in Table 16 (next page), which presents the unweighted frequencies. The results in this table are not representative of the Wisconsin population, because they have not been weighted to correct for disproportionate sampling rates.

**Table 16. Wisconsin Family Health Survey 1998 Sample Size**

<b>Total</b>	<b>6,560</b>	<b>Residence</b>	
<b>Age Groups</b>		City of Milwaukee	1,261
0-17	1,938	Other Metropolitan (excluding	
18-44	2,597	City of Milwaukee)	3,309
45-64	1,304	Nonmetropolitan	1,990
65+	721	<b>Poverty Status</b>	
<b>Sex and Age Groups</b>		Poor	714
<b>Male</b>		Near-poor	1,266
0-17	1,023	Not poor	4,375
18-44	1,213	<b>Educational Attainment</b>	
45-64	643	<b>Ages 18 and older:</b>	
65+	317	Less than high school diploma	457
<b>Female</b>		High school diploma	1,621
0-17	915	More than high school	2,497
18-44	1,384	<b>Employment</b>	
45-64	661	<b>Ages 0-17</b>	
65+	404	Live with employed adult(s)	1,824
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		Lived with no employed adult(s)	112
White, non-Hispanic	5,518	<b>Ages 18-64</b>	
Black, non-Hispanic	617	Employed full-time	2,563
Hispanic	168	Employed part-time	487

Source: 1998 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

The person in each household who knows the most about the health of all household members is selected to answer all survey questions during the telephone interview. This person answers survey questions for him/herself as well as for all other household members. In 1998, 72 percent of the respondents were women.

The questions asked in the FHS were designed in the Bureau of Health Information. Many of the questions asked remain the same from year to year; new topics are added from time to time. Abbreviated versions of some survey questions appear with some of the tables in this report and in Appendix A. A copy of all questions asked in 1998 may be obtained from the Bureau of Health Information.

The data set for analysis of the 1998 FHS was constructed in the Bureau of Health Information, using the individual as the basic unit for analysis. Some missing data (i.e., respondent refused to answer or answered “don’t know”) on the age, sex, race and education variables were imputed, using interview transcripts and similar cases. About 9 percent of respondents did not report income (needed to calculate poverty status). Through imputation from other income information, the final proportion of households with missing information on poverty status was reduced to 5 percent (unweighted for households).

Household population estimates for age and sex groups (see Table 15, page 41) were constructed in the Bureau of Health Information. The Demographic Services Center, Department of Administration (DOA), estimates the Wisconsin population on January 1 of every non-Census year. The Bureau of Health Information estimates the July 1 population each year by adjusting the DOA estimate to reflect population growth between January and July. The household population used in the Family Health Survey weights is the total population minus the group-quarters population (i.e., persons living in

nursing homes, college dormitories, prisons, etc.). The household population estimate for July 1, 1997 was used to weight the results in this report.

A final weight variable was constructed for each person record on the data set, incorporating the varying sampling rates, response rates by stratum, and the total estimated household population as described above. The weight adjusted the sample for the age/sex distribution of the household population estimate.

## Definitions of Variables Used in This Report

**Age and sex.** These characteristics are reported by the respondent for each household member. Individual years of age are classified into four groups for the analysis here: ages 0 through 17, 18 through 44, 45 through 64, and 65 and older. In a few tables, elderly adults are separated into two groups: ages 65 through 74, and age 75 and older.

**Race and ethnicity.** These were determined by two questions (which are shown with Figure 21, page 36). Everyone whose race was reported as white and who was reported as not Hispanic is grouped into the “white, non-Hispanic” category. The same applies to blacks who were reported as not Hispanic. Everyone identified as Hispanic, regardless of race, was coded as “Hispanic.”

**Metropolitan and nonmetropolitan.** Twenty Wisconsin counties have been designated metropolitan counties by the federal Office of Management and Budget. They are: Brown, Calumet, Chippewa, Dane, Douglas, Eau Claire, Kenosha, La Crosse, Marathon, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Pierce, Racine, Rock, St. Croix, Sheboygan, Washington, Waukesha, and Winnebago. Counties are designated as metropolitan because they either 1) have a central city of at least 50,000 people, or 2) are adjacent and economically linked to a “central city” county. For the tables in this report, results for the City of Milwaukee have been separated from the rest of the metropolitan counties. The “Other Metropolitan” category includes Milwaukee County outside the city plus the remaining 19 metropolitan counties. The other 52 counties are nonmetropolitan.

**Poverty status.** The relationship between number of people in a household and the annual income of that household determines the poverty status. The Family Health Survey asked several questions about total household income during the calendar year prior to the survey (1997), and used current household size to determine whether a household’s income was below the federal poverty guideline. A household of four people was considered poor if the total income was below \$16,000 (this is an approximation of the 1997 federal guideline, which was \$16,050). The “near-poor” category on these tables includes all people in households where the income was greater than the poverty guideline but less than twice the guideline. For a household of four, this was \$32,000 (see Table 17, next page).

**Table 17. Wisconsin Family Health Survey Poverty Guidelines, 1997**

Household Size	Poverty Guidelines	
	Poor	Near-Poor
1	\$8,000	\$16,000
2	\$11,000	\$21,000
3	\$13,000	\$27,000
4	\$16,000	\$32,000
5	\$19,000	\$38,000
6	\$21,000	\$43,000

Source: Wisconsin Family Health Survey. Guidelines derived from *Federal Register*, March 10, 1997, and rounded to nearest \$1,000.

Notes: All members of a household were considered to be “poor” if total household income was less than the poverty guideline shown for a household of that size. Household members were considered to be “near-poor” if total household income fell between the poor and near-poor guidelines shown in this table for a household of that size.

**Educational attainment.** Years of schooling completed are categorized in three groups for this report. Adults who finished 11 grades of school or less are in the first group, “less than high school diploma.” Adults who completed 12 years of school or a GED are in the “high school graduate” group, and adults who attended college or technical school beyond high school are in the “education beyond high school” group.

**Working-age adults (ages 18 to 64).** People in this age range are classified by employment status. Those who were working full-time at the time of the survey are grouped together, as are those who were working part-time. The remaining adults ages 18-64 include homemakers, the retired, full-time students, persons laid off, the unemployed (either looking or not looking for work), and those disabled persons who are unable to work. These adults were not grouped together as it is too disparate a group.

**Children under age 18.** All children are classified by the employment status of the adults in their household. If at least one adult was employed either part-time or full-time, then the child was classified as living with an employed adult. If no adult in the child’s household was employed at the time of the interview, then the child was classified as living with no employed adults.

**Health insurance.** As used in this report, “**health insurance**” includes any kind of private or public coverage for health care costs, including Medicare, Medical Assistance (also called Medicaid), and other government-funded insurance. The FHS does not obtain information about the extent of services covered by insurance, or information about costs of premiums, deductibles, and co-payments.

**Health insurance coverage over the past year.** This estimates three groups: the percent of residents who were covered by health insurance over the entire 12 months preceding the telephone interview, the percent who had coverage during part of the 12 months and had no insurance part of the time, and the percent who had no health insurance at all during the preceding 12 months.

Because FHS interviews were conducted throughout the year, the “preceding 12-month” period is indefinite; it can include any 12-month period between January 1996 and December 1997.

As previously mentioned on page 9, the FHS estimate of uninsured for the entire year has not been identical to that reported by the U.S. Census Bureau’s Current Population Survey (CPS). Though both surveys estimate the proportion of persons who were uninsured for the entire past year, differences in measurement methods may explain most of the discrepancy between estimates. For example:

- The sample design for the FHS is a random sample of telephone numbers, stratified by regions, while the CPS uses a nationally-representative multistage cluster sample.
- The sample for the FHS is larger than the CPS sample for the state of Wisconsin.
- The FHS insurance question refers to the past 12 months while CPS asks about the calendar year.
- The study designs are different: the CPS is longitudinal, conducting 8 interviews with each household over a 2-year period, while the FHS is a point-in-time study, conducting one interview with each household.
- There are variations in interviewer training and methods. The first CPS interview is conducted face-to-face while the FHS is conducted only by telephone.
- The CPS estimates the uninsured by the “residual method.” Survey participants report on the health insurance that they have had over the past year, and those who report no insurance at all are considered to be uninsured. The FHS specifically asks: *Thinking about all types of private and government health insurance, including Medicare, Medical Assistance, employer-provided coverage, and insurance that you pay for, were you covered for all 12 months since [this month last year], covered for part of that time, or not covered at all by health insurance since [this month last year]?*

Despite all the differences between the surveys, the characteristics of uninsured persons are very consistent. The Wisconsin Family Health Survey, the CPS, and all other reputable surveys find that persons are much more likely to be uninsured if they (or their family members) are unemployed, employed part time, low-income or poor, or lacking a high school diploma.

The reader is advised to use CPS estimates to make comparisons between states. However, for program purposes, the FHS is the best source of information about health insurance among Wisconsin residents since the FHS draws on a much larger representative sample in Wisconsin than does the CPS.

***Insured and uninsured.*** The “current” estimate of health insurance coverage is the percent (or number) who had health insurance coverage at the time of the interview. It is a snapshot estimate, a cross-section of the Wisconsin household population at one point in time. Each respondent is asked to list household members who are currently insured through Medicare, Medical Assistance, private health insurance, or any other kind of coverage. Each household member with any insurance is considered to be insured. Those with no insurance at the time of the interview are uninsured. When interviews for the entire year are compiled, the results estimate the proportions insured and uninsured at any one random point in time during 1998.

There is a significant difference between estimates of the currently uninsured for 1998 (6%) versus 1997 (9%). This difference is partly due to changes in interview questions. Starting in January 1998, a “reconciliation” section was added to the interview schedule to correct for inconsistencies within an

## Technical Notes

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interview between responses about current health insurance and about insurance coverage over the past year. For example, if a respondent stated that he/she currently had private insurance but also stated that he/she had no health insurance coverage over the past 12 months, the respondent was asked to review his/her health insurance status in order to correct for or explain these inconsistencies.

This additional review of health insurance questions significantly reduced the percentage of persons with discrepant answers and therefore produced different responses than were produced in 1997 without the review. However, this change in the questionnaire did not affect the majority of 1998 interviews (only 7% of all households went through the “reconciliation” questions), so it is likely that some of the change in proportion currently uninsured is due to actual changes in insurance coverage.

## Question Changes

In March 1998, one question was dropped from the survey: *Is anyone in your household enrolled in the AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) program?* With the creation of the “Wisconsin Works” program (W-2), which provides assistance such as job searches, employment, child care, and transportation to work, the AFDC program (also called TANF) was phased out of existence.

## Tables in This Report

All information presented in the tables and figures in this report, including the estimates of Wisconsin’s household population, was produced from the weighted 1998 Family Health Survey.

The tables include estimated percentages, 95 percent confidence intervals, and estimated numbers of people. The percentage estimates, as well as the percentage confidence intervals, are rounded to whole numbers to avoid the impression of greater precision than is warranted from a sample survey. The estimated numbers of people, which are estimates of the Wisconsin household population, are rounded to the nearest 1,000 for the same reason.

The 95 percent confidence interval (for both the estimated percents and number of people) is in parentheses. Add the confidence interval value to the estimated percent to find the high boundary and subtract it from the percent to find the low boundary of the 95 percent confidence interval. For example, on the top line of Table 2, 6 percent of Wisconsin household residents are estimated to be currently uninsured. Adding and subtracting the 1 percent value yields a 95 percent confidence interval of 5 to 7 percent. This means that 95 out of 100 random surveys would estimate that 5 to 7 percent of Wisconsin household residents were uninsured at the time of the survey. The same procedure applies to the estimated number of people; adding and subtracting 28,000 from 283,000 yields a 95 percent confidence interval of 255,000 to 311,000 persons who were not currently covered by health insurance.

In some tables the percentage estimates would be expected to sum to 100 percent, but they do not. This is due to two factors: rounding to whole numbers, and omission of “no answer” categories. The “no answer” category includes refusals to answer and answers of “don’t know.” Information about the “no answer” or missing data category is presented in tables where it is a sizable percentage.

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## Appendix A

### Abbreviated Interview Schedule 1998 Family Health Survey

The questions are presented here as if they were asked only of the respondent, but in fact, most questions were asked about each person living in the respondent's household. All questions were answered by the respondent on behalf of the other household members. The complicated skip patterns built into the interview schedule are not shown here (nor are the response categories); skip patterns are based on the answers to prior questions. This is a simplified version presented for ease of understanding.

After the interviewer asks who is the most knowledgeable person in the household (in matters related to the health of other household members), that person is selected to be the respondent and answers questions on behalf of everyone in the household. At the start of the interview, the respondent is asked to list all persons living in the household and to give their first name, their relationship to the respondent, and their age and sex.

#### FAMILY HEALTH INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

- Overall, how satisfied are you with the health care available to you and your family? Would you say you are satisfied or dissatisfied?
- Are you and your family worried about the cost of health care or not worried about the cost of health care?
- How many persons live in your household counting all adults and children and including yourself?
- I would like you to rate the general health of each person in your household. In general, would you say your health is excellent, very good, good, fair or poor?

*(The following questions are asked about adults aged 18 and older)*

- Do any of the adults in your household have trouble walking one block because of a health problem?  
How long have you had this trouble?
- Do any of the adults in your household have trouble walking uphill or climbing a few flights of stairs because of a health problem?  
How long have you had this trouble?
- Do any of the adults in your household have trouble bending, lifting or stooping because of a health problem?  
How long have you had this trouble?

- Do any of the adults in your household have trouble doing vigorous exercise or work, such as lifting heavy objects, running, or participating in strenuous sports because of a health problem?  
How long have you had this trouble?
- Does the health of any of the adults in your household keep them from working at a job, doing work around the house, or going to school?  
How long have you had this trouble?
- Do any of the adults in your household have trouble eating, dressing, bathing, or using the toilet because of a health problem?  
How long have you had this trouble?

*(End of adult-only section.)*

- Is there one particular clinic, health center, doctor's office or other place where you usually go for routine health care, such as minor illnesses or checkups?
- Do you have two or more usual places to go for routine health care depending on the problem?
- Has anyone in your household been unable to carry out their usual activities or missed work or school because of illness or some other health-related problem during the past two weeks, that is since *(date)*?
- For how many days were you unable to do your usual activities or unable to go to work or school?
- What was the health problem?
- Did you see a medical doctor for the *(problem)* during the past two weeks, or not?
- In the past twelve months, how many times have you seen a medical doctor for some health care or advice, not counting informal advice from relatives or friends who are medical doctors?
- How long has it been since you last saw a medical doctor?
- I'm going to read a list of other health professionals. For each one, please tell me whether or not anyone in your household has received some care or advice from them during the past twelve months. Please do not include professionals who gave informal advice, such as relatives or friends with medical training.  
In the past 12 months who in your household has received some care or advice from a nurse or nurse practitioner?
- In the past 12 months who in your household has received some care or advice from a physician assistant?
- In the past 12 months who in your household has received some care or advice from a chiropractor?

- In the past 12 months who in your household has received some care or advice from a physical therapist?
- In the past 12 months who in your household has received some counseling or advice from a psychologist, psychiatrist or other mental health professional?
- Many adults and children get a general physical examination or check-up once in a while. How long has it been since you had a general check-up for which an appointment had been made?
- Who has stayed overnight in a hospital during the past 12 months, that is since *(date)*?
- Who in your household has been treated at a hospital emergency room during the past 12 months, that is, since *(date)*?
- About how many times in the past 12 months have you been treated in an emergency room?

*(The following questions are asked about children.)*

- Thinking about the time you were treated in an emergency room, did anyone call 911 before you went to the emergency room?  
     Were you taken by ambulance to the emergency room?  
     Did anyone call a doctor or nurse before you went to the hospital emergency room?  
     Were you told to go to an emergency room or to see a doctor first, or something else?
- Thinking of the most recent time you were treated at an emergency room, did you go there because of an illness or an injury or something else?
- Was this injury accidental or from an intentional act?
- Were you treated at the emergency room mainly because it was a very serious or life threatening emergency or some other reason?
- Were you treated at the emergency room outside of regular office hours, that is, at night, on a weekend or a holiday?

*(End of children-only section.)*

- Was anyone treated at a walk-in clinic or urgent care center where you don't need an appointment, at least once during the past 12 months?
- How many times were you treated at a walk-in clinic or urgent care center during the past 12 months?
- Sometimes people have problems getting medical care when they need it. During the last 12 months, was there any time when you or anyone in your household needed medical care or surgery but did not get it?

- Now I'd like to know about the last time each household member visited the dentist. How long ago did you last visit the dentist?
- What was the reason you went to the dentist at that time? Was it a check-up, a problem, both or something else?
- I'm going to read a list of common serious health problems. For each one, please tell me whether you or anyone in your household has ever been told by a doctor that they have it.
  - First, has anyone in your household ever been told by a doctor that they have arthritis?
  - Osteoporosis or brittle bones?
  - Cancer?
  - Emphysema or chronic bronchitis?
  - Asthma?
  - Any other lung disease or chronic breathing problem?
  - Diabetes?
  - High blood pressure or hypertension?
  - Stroke?
  - Heart disease?
  - Heart attack?
  - Any other chronic condition of the heart or circulatory problems?
- A new state program called W-2 provides assistance, such as job searches, employment, child care, and transportation to work. Is anyone in your household enrolled in the W-2 program?

*(The following question was asked if there were children aged 0-17 in the household. This question was deleted in March 1998.)*

- Is anyone in your household enrolled in the AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) program?

*(The following question was asked if there were children aged 0-5 or a female aged 17-40 in the household.)*

- Is anyone in your household enrolled in the WIC nutrition program which provides nutritious foods to women, infants and children?
- Is anyone in your household receiving food stamps?
- Is anyone in your household receiving Social Security payments?
- Is anyone in your household receiving payments from SSI?
- These next questions are about health insurance and other sources of payment for your household's medical care. Medicare is a Social Security health insurance program for persons 65 years and older and for disabled persons. Is anyone in your household enrolled in the Medicare program?

- There is a government program called Medical Assistance or Medicaid or Title 19 that pays for health care for low income persons. Is anyone in this household NOW enrolled in Medical Assistance or Medicaid or Title 19?
- Has anyone in the household been enrolled in the Medical Assistance program in the last 12 months?
- What color is your Medical Assistance Card?
- There is a government program called Healthy Start that provides health care for pregnant women and young children who might have problems paying for health care. Is anyone NOW enrolled in Healthy Start?
- Has anyone in the household been enrolled in Healthy Start in the last 12 months?
- What color is your Medical Assistance Card?
- Now we want to ask some questions about health insurance coverage. Does anyone in your household have any private health insurance or hospital insurance plan which pays any part of a doctor bill or hospital bill, or any other medical costs? This includes insurance paid for by either you or an employer.
- Is everyone in your household covered by a private health insurance or hospital insurance plan?
- Are all the persons you named covered by the same health insurance plan?
- Are you included in an employer group plan or is your plan some other kind of health insurance?
- Does this health insurance plan pay for all, some, or none of the costs of general checkups and other preventive services, when those who are covered are not sick?
- Is this plan an HMO or PPO? (health maintenance organization or preferred provider organization)
- I am going to read three descriptions of different types of health care plans. After I have read all three, please tell me which one best describes the health plan that covers these people. You can use any doctor you choose 2. You can use any doctor you choose but it costs more to use a doctor outside the plan, or 3. You can use only a doctor associated with the plan.
- Have you been in this type of health plan for less than 12 months or more than 12 months?
- Now I'd like to know about health insurance coverage during the past 12 months for each person living there. Thinking about all kinds of private and government health insurance, including Medicare, Medical Assistance, employer provided coverage, and insurance that you pay for, were you covered for all 12 months since (*month*), covered for part of that time or not covered at all by health insurance since (*date*).
- In the past 2 years or so, has anyone in your household decided to stay in one job rather than take another job mainly because of reasons related to health benefits?

*(The next question was asked about all household members aged 6 and older.)*

- What is the highest grade or level in school or college that you have completed?

*(The next two questions were asked about all household members aged 18 and older.)*

- Are you now married, widowed, divorced, separated, never married, or a member of an unmarried couple?
- Are you working full-time, working part-time, laid off or on strike, retired, unemployed and looking for work, unemployed and not looking for work, unable to work or disabled, keeping house, or a full-time student?

*(The next two questions were asked only of adults who were working full-time or part-time.)*

- This question is about your longest job in the past 12 months. I'll read a list of different types of jobs. Which type best describes your job: sales; clerical; service; professional; technical; managerial; administrative; farming; craftsman; operating a machine; assembly work; driving; or laborer?
- Thinking about your longest job in the past 12 months, were you working for wages, salary, or commissions as an employee of a private company, business, or individual; or a government employee; or self-employed in your own business, professional practice, or farm; or working without pay in the family business or farm?
- Is your race White, Black, Asian, or American Indian?
- Who, if anyone, in your household is of Hispanic origin...such as Mexican-American, Latin American, Puerto Rican or Cuban?
- In what county is this residence located?

*(Asked if residence is in Milwaukee County)*

- Is this residence in the city of Milwaukee?
- What is your Zip code?
- Do you live on a farm?

*(The next series of questions was about household income. Respondents were asked two income questions depending on their household size. Answers to these questions are used to compute poverty status. Because this is a very complicated section with complex skip patterns, only one example is given here, based on a household of four.)*

- Thinking of the total income for everyone in your household from all sources in 1997, was that income less than \$16,000, between \$16,000 and \$32,000 or over \$32,000?

*(If the respondent answers “over \$32,000,” the following question is asked.)*

- Would you say that your household’s total income in 1997 was less than \$35,000, between \$35,000 and \$40,000, between \$40,000 and \$50,000, between \$50,000 and \$75,000, or greater than \$75,000?

